

THE TIMES

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Shaming of Olympic ideal



Salt Lake City and Sydney keep Games

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE ruling body of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday recommended that six IOC members be expelled in the biggest scandal in the 104-year history of the Games.

Three other members have already resigned and three more remain under investigation in the "500,000 'votes-for-favours'" scandal over Salt Lake City's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC President who is due to retire in 2001, also said yesterday that he would seek a vote of confidence from the remaining members when they hold an extraordinary session in Lausanne on March 17 and 18. His heir apparent is now under investigation.

The crisis has left an indelible stain on the 21-year reign of Señor Samaranch as head of the movement. The expulsions and resignations will not satisfy his critics, who believe he must take more of the blame for the crisis.

Leading international sponsors, such as Coca-Cola and *Time* Magazine, who put hundreds of millions of pounds into the Games, are threatening to halt financial support unless there is a complete break with the past.

The remaining members of the 112-strong Committee, including the Princess Royal, are expected to back the Executive Board recommendation to expel the six, all of whom are

either African or South American. A two-thirds majority is needed to carry out what would be the first expulsions in the history of the Olympics.

Señor Samaranch said: "We encourage them to tender their resignation. They don't have to wait to be expelled. It is better to put an end to this most dire chapter in the history of the Olympics. These members have done great harm to the Olympic family and now their greatest service to the Olympic movement is simply to accept their fate."

Señor Samaranch pledged yesterday that both the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney and the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City would continue at their chosen venues. There were further revelations over the weekend that Sydney agreed in 1993 to give cash to the national Olympic committees of Kenya and Uganda to ensure their support for 2000. Sydney won by only two votes from Beijing.

The most famous member facing expulsion is Jean-Claude Ganga, from the Congo, arguably the most important man in African sport and the man who led the move to ban Rhodesia from the 1972 Olympics and also the Black African boycott of the 1976 Games in Montreal. Mr Ganga, an IOC member since 1986, was accused of making more than £30,000 from a land deal set up by Salt Lake City. The remaining five mem-



Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC President, at the press conference in Lausanne

bers to face expulsion are Carlos Arroyo of Ecuador; Zein El Abdin, Abdel Cadir of Sudan; Lamire Keita of Mali; Charles Nderitu Mukora of Kenya and Sergio Santander Fantini of Chile.

The three who have resigned are: Pirjo Haeggman of Finland and Bashir Muhamad Attarabulsi of Libya, both of whom made their decisions last week, and David Sibande of Swaziland, who acted yesterday.

Anton Geesink of The Neth-

erlands, the 1964 Olympic judo champion, was also given a severe reprimand after an academy which bears his name received £3,500.

However, the spiralling crisis also includes further inquiries into the activities of three other powerful members. They are Kim Un Yong of South Korea, a possible successor to Señor Samaranch; Vitali Smirnov of Russia and Louis Guiraudou N'Diaye of Ivory Coast. However, IOC sources said last night that they were

expected to be cleared of any wrongdoing.

Yesterday's decision by the all-powerful Executive Board, which met in Lausanne, followed a five-week investigation. Members were accused of accepting inducements of up to a total of £500,000 in cash and benefits from Salt Lake City. There were also reports of gifts and free medical care.

Gold rush, page 4
Time to go, page 35

Blairs condemn press report on daughter

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister and his wife last night objected to the Press Complaints Commission over a newspaper story about Kathryn, their ten-year-old daughter.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said that Tony and Cherie Blair had complained to Lord Wakeham, chairman of the commission.

The story in the *Mail on Sunday* referred to the school to which the Blairs are sending their daughter in September and said several parents were accusing the school of giving her a place at the expense of local children.

Mr Blair announced two weeks ago that he was sending his daughter to the Sacred Heart, a Roman Catholic comprehensive in Hammersmith. But in what is believed to be the first complaint to the commission by a Prime Minister, Mr Blair said the newspaper had breached the code of conduct about press intrusion into children's lives.

The spokesman added that the Blairs would be asking the commission about general guidance for the protection of children of public figures.

Government sources said Mr Blair was particularly an-

gry as it appeared that *Mail on Sunday* reporters had been deliberately intrusive and tried to whip up comments by parents. They said that two thirds of children at the school came from outside the catchment area.

The strongly-worded statement, delivered to Lord Wakeham yesterday, said that under the commission's guidelines, children should be able to attend school without press intrusion and that the private lives of children should not be covered simply because they had famous parents.

The Blairs want their daughter to attend a Catholic comprehensive school, of which there are none in Westminster. The school their daughter is due to attend was their first choice," the statement said.

"It's reasonably close to the school attended by their sons, which means the children will be able to travel together.

As the school head and the Local Education Authority have made clear, all the normal procedures were followed in line with the school's admissions policy, and the Prime Minister's daughter received no special treatment."

Mowlam wants end to beatings

By MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

MO MOWLAM will today meet the political representatives of Northern Ireland's three main paramilitary groups at Stormont to demand an end to all "punishment beatings" and kneecappings.

Sources said the Northern Ireland Secretary would tell Sinn Fein and the loyalist Progressive Unionist and Ulster Democratic parties of her "abhorrence" of punishment beatings and their obligation to do all they can to halt them.

The Blairs came under attack four years ago when they announced they were sending their son, Euan, to the grammar-maintained Brompton Oratory in Fulham. His brother, Nicky, followed him later.

The *Mail on Sunday* reported parents as saying that the Blairs should have sent Kathryn closer to home. The Notre Dame High School in Southwark, a Roman Catholic comprehensive, is about two miles from Downing Street, but travel could be difficult given that the boys go to Fulham in west London. Two other Catholic state girls' schools are equidistant from Hammersmith, from Downing Street.

These are mutilations, there are people with their legs being blown off," William Hague, the Conservative leader, said on television. He believed to release prisoners early is a mistake."

Ulster beatings, page 6

ONE
KNOWS
WHEN TIME
IS RUNNING
OUT.

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Blacks and crime
The Home Office has shelved a secret study showing that blacks are far more likely to be criminals than are Asians and whites. Page 2



Lewinsky back in Washington

Monica Lewinsky in Washington after she returned from Los Angeles under a court order to be interviewed by Republicans about President Clinton's impeachment trial.

Judge Norma Holloway Johnson said she must co-operate or forfeit her protection under an immunity deal.

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US bombs Iraqi missile sites

American fighters bombed two Iraqi surface-to-air missile systems in northern Iraq. The Americans said an F-15E "Strike Eagle" plane had probably scored a direct hit on the site, which "posed a threat to coalition forces in the region". American aircraft also fired anti-radar missiles at another Iraqi missile site near Mosul. Government sources said Mr Blair was particularly an-

04



Straw shelves study on black criminality

THE Home Office has shelved a highly sensitive study showing that black people are far more likely than Asian or whites to become involved in crime.

The confidential study was carried out by a senior Home Office researcher for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and its circulation has been tightly restricted.

Senior police believe the study has been "put on the back-burner" because of the impending report into the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence, which is expected to criticise police racism. They are frustrated that Mr Straw is shying away from a public debate on the scale of black criminality and the reasons for it.

One police source said that the Home Office study was "a fairly sensitive piece of work. It is about where we are going, and there are some unhappy conclusions. It is substantial and quite revealing."

Although the study raises important questions on crimes by members of ethnic minorities, a Home Office source confirmed that no action has been planned as a result.

The author of the study was Dr Marion Fitzgerald, a senior criminologist and sociologist in the Home Office's research and development section, who has written other papers on race and crime statistics. The study analyses material published during the 1990s and questions why a higher proportion of the black popula-

Conclusions of report on racial factors are being kept under lock and key, reports

Stewart Tendler

tion than the Asian population is linked to crime.

The study has drawn on Home Office statistics for 1997-98 on the relationship between ethnic communities and the criminal justice system. Those statistics show that 2 per cent of the population aged ten and above in England and Wales are black, 3 per cent Asian, and another 1 per cent is linked to the Far East, Middle East or other parts of ethnic minority backgrounds.

Three years ago the sensitivity of the issue of race and crime was highlighted when Scotland Yard launched Operation Eagle Eye against street muggers. Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, was widely attacked for saying that young black people were suspected of committing the majority of street robberies.

A spokesman for the Home Office said that the study was an internal paper and there was no question of anything being suppressed or delayed because of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. Research in ten forces that cover two thirds of the population from ethnic minority backgrounds in England and Wales, showed that in Leicestershire there were 232 arrests for every 1,000 black people aged ten and over, 43 per 1,000 Asians and 34 per 1,000 whites. The highest figure for Asians was in Thames Valley

at 108 per thousand and the highest for whites was in Lancashire with 53 per 1,000.

Dr Fitzgerald's report examines the situation in London, analysing the possible influence of the high rates of family break-up in the black community on criminal behaviour, as well as the economic and cultural cost of crime to the communities.

It could influence policy decisions on how to prevent youngsters from ethnic backgrounds becoming offenders.

Dr Fitzgerald is a former academic who joined the Home Office more than a decade ago. She prepared research on crime and race for the royal commission on the criminal justice system under Lord Runciman and has published papers on ethnic monitoring in police forces and victimisation and harassment of people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

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Rupert and Sheila Sylvester, whose son died in hospital, walking either side of a priest at the head of the march yesterday

Grieving parents demand explanation

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE parents of a 30-year-old black man who died after being overpowered by eight policemen marched to a police station yesterday wearing shirts printed with the words "Who killed my son?"

Rupert and Sheila Sylvester, whose son Roger died last Tuesday after eight days in a coma, were joined by 600 marchers, including Neville Lawrence, father of Stephen, whose racist murder was unsolved because of apparent police blunders.

"It's another person who has been killed," said Mr Lawrence. "Even with the focus on the police, they still continue to do the same. It's business as usual as far as I am concerned."

The deeply religious family, originally from Granada, led a dignified march through the racially tense area

of Tottenham, north London, the parents holding the hands of their minister the Rev Gerald Bruce, singing "We shall overcome".

At the police station, candles were lit and left burning on the railings as an increasingly agitated crowd shouted: "Murderers" at the police.

Roger Sylvester's mysterious death has ignited the black community in a district which was inflamed by the 1993 death of Joy Gardner, who died after her head was covered in sticky tape while she was being deported.

Police and black community leaders have been struggling to build trust since the 1985 Broadwater Farm riot, when PC Keith Blakelock was murdered.

According to the police, Mr Sylvester was restrained after being found na-

ked, banging on a door in his own street in Tottenham two weeks ago. He was handcuffed and taken to St Ano's Hospital to be sectioned under the Mental Health Act but suffered a respiratory arrest while being assessed by medical staff.

He was taken to North Middlesex Hospital and finally Whittington Hospital where he died in the intensive care unit.

The family, who have been trying to stop the campaign being hijacked by Trotskyists and black-power militants, gathered outside his home in Summerhill Road yesterday afternoon.

Mr Bruce from the Finchley Park Methodist Church said: "We pray that Roger's death will be a means whereby we can change our society in a peaceful, powerful way."



Roger Sylvester: family led march

Staff get a right to unpaid leave

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

COMPANIES will be forced to allow their staff to take unpaid "emergency" days off under an ambitious package of measures to help families to be unveiled by the Government this week.

But under regulations follow-

ing the Fairness at Work Bill, all new mothers will qualify for 18 weeks statutory leave from day one, and up to 40 weeks unpaid leave after one year instead of two.

The Bill will also allow three months unpaid parental leave to be taken by either or both parents in addition to maternity leave. Although details have yet to be finalised, this could be taken until the child is 11 or even up to 16. It could be taken in one chunk or spread over six months as part of jobshare.

Parents who adopt children will be also entitled to take three months leave to allow them to bond with their child.

The main focus of the Bill will be on statutory recognitions for unions. Mr Byers has decided to keep all the changes on the issue that were announced by Peter Mandelson in December shortly before he was forced to resign over the home-loan affair.

Two weeks ago Lord Irvine's proposals came under attack from a select committee

Irvine heads off clash with judges over powers

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor has defused a potential clash with senior judges over the powers he proposes for himself over the justice system and legal profession.

Lord Irvine of Lairg has told

peers that he will accept amendments aimed at curtailing the powers set out in his Access to Justice Bill. Both the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, are backing the restrictions suggested last week at the Committee stage.

An amendment tabled by Lord Lloyd of Berwick, a retired law lord, and backed by several peers as well as the Bar, sets out principles that would govern the exercise of powers by the Lord Chancellor.

These include: that people should not be denied access to justice or the machinery of justice on account of their means; that legal services ensure that disputes are settled expeditiously; and that a strong, independent and self-regulating legal profession be preserved.

Two weeks ago Lord Irvine's proposals came under attack from a select committee



Irvine will accept peers' amendments to Bill

MP agrees age of consent deal

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Labour MP who led opposition last year to reducing the age of consent for homosexuals to 16 yesterday called on Labour MPs to back the new Bill making the change.

Joe Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw, said he would support the second reading today of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill after the Government's decision to bring in safeguards to protect vulnerable teenagers from being exploited by people such as teachers and carers in positions of trust.

He said last night: "The position taken by me and other Labour MPs was never anti-gay. It was the fear that lowering the age of consent to 16 would mean that more young people would fall prey to people who abuse their positions of trust. Now I am happy to ask all Labour MPs to vote for the Bill and I hope that the Lords will back it as well."

The safeguards had been sought by Mr Ashton and other Labour MPs when the attempt to bring in a lower age of consent fell at the last hurdle after defeat in the Lords of an amendment to the Crime and Disorder Bill. Mr Ashton

Man, 45, faces ten charges over two girls

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A MAN aged 45 will appear in court today facing ten charges over the disappearance of two girls. Alan Edward Hopkinson is accused of kidnapping, abduction, false imprisonment and other alleged offences relating to serious assaults.

Mr Hopkinson, from Langney, Eastbourne, East Sussex, has been in custody at Hastings police station since his arrest on Friday and is due to appear at the town's magistrates court this morning.

The court is expected to be packed with reporters and police said yesterday that they were preparing for the possibility that a large crowd could gather outside the courthouse. Mr Hopkinson will be taken from the police station to the courthouse via an underground passage connecting the buildings.

He was charged on Saturday night after a huge police operation to find the girls, both aged 10, who went missing while on their way to school last Tuesday morning. They were reunited with their families on Friday evening after being found safe.

Earlier today churchgoers in East Sussex said prayers of thanks for the safe return of the girls. The congregation at one church prayed that the young girls and their families would recover from the ordeal which shocked the local community.

The church minister said everyone was delighted that the girls had been reunited with their families. "Our prayers have been answered. The whole congregation has been so very worried all week and today we thank God for their safe return. Our thoughts are with the girls and their families at this time."

Teachers' pay rise threatens class size pledge

Employers fear a budget-busting 4 per cent award, reports John O'Leary

THE pledge by Tony Blair to cut class sizes would be derailed by an above-inflation pay deal for teachers next week, local authority leaders have warned the Government.

Ministers are believed to have been considering a 4 per cent pay award for teachers in England. Although he has refused to give any guarantees, David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, is anxious to pay the award in full rather than in stages, as the past three have been.

But Graham Lane, the education chairman of the Local Government Association, said schools could only afford a three per cent increase from this year's budget. A bigger

rise would mean larger classes unless the Government funded the award.

Mr Lane said: "Every one per cent increase costs £120 million and we simply have not got the money to pay it. No one wants to deny teachers a decent rise, but it has to be one we can afford."

Although the Government's spending assessment for education was 5.5 per cent up on the previous year, many authorities were already spending above the recommended level. With other services' funding being squeezed, schools'

budgets are unlikely to be topped up locally as they have been in recent years.

Mr Lane said councils had put more money aside for teachers' pay than Treasury guidance implied. Rather than allowing for a 2.5 per cent cost of living rise, they had budgeted for three per cent.

"With the school population rising again, we will have no choice but to increase class sizes and cut back other initiatives, if the pay award is too high. This is not some Mexican bargaining trick I am trying to save the Government from

the same mistake the Tories made when they refused to fund teachers' pay."

The authorities' stance presents ministers with a dilemma when they finalise public sector awards this week. Low recruitment to the profession is causing serious concern and teachers' unions are determined to recoup ground lost over the past three years.

Although the recent Green Paper on the teaching profession holds out the promise of substantial increases for many members of the profession, the awards will not be

seen for at least another year. With Scottish teachers discussing a possible 18 per cent rise over three years, the English unions are reluctant to wait.

A spokeswoman for the National Union of Teachers said: "Unless the Government does something about salaries immediately, recruitment problems are going to get worse. Teachers are fed up with being treated as they have been over the last three years, with low increases and phasing."

"They have to treat teaching shortages as seriously as they do nurses."

The NUT is already concerned at the funding allocated for the Green Paper reforms. A union report to be published today will question whether the £1 billion committed for the pay initiative is sufficient to allow a majority of the profession to benefit, as Mr Blunkett has promised.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said it was essential that teachers should not fall further behind other professions if the reforms were to succeed.

"If this year's settlement is too low, it will wreck the Green Paper exercise," he said.



THE SIGNAL TO GO FASTER.

New hi-tech signalling and automatic barriers on the Felixstowe line mean that more trains will be travelling faster between stations like this one at Trimley. www.railtrack.co.uk

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The heart of the railway

McCartney swears by Linda's last song

SIR PAUL McCARTNEY has launched a crusade against radio and television stations that have banned the final song by his late wife, Linda, because it contains a "swear" word. The single, *The Light Comes From Within*, is taken from his wife's posthumous solo album, *Wide Prairie*.

Sir Paul has taken out an advertisement on page 17 of *The Times* today complaining about the censorship and asking the nation's parents to decide whether their children will be "morally corrupted" by the lyric.

"You say I'm simple, you say I'm a hick,"

"You're f***ing no-one, you stupid dick."

Sir Paul said last night that the swear word was used frequently on television and radio and that it was misguided to try to shield children from its use. "Is this the 90s or the 20s?"

The record mocks Lady McCartney's critics, who ridiculed her during her lifetime for her vegetarianism and animal rights campaigns. Her husband feels strongly that, because it is her final musical testament, it should not be sanitised. In the advertisement, Sir

Paul says: "Should you decide that your children must not hear this record, we would be grateful for your wisdom and good sense and will put our fingers in our ears whenever we hear it played."

"If on the other hand, you feel that no harm will come to your children by being exposed to this song, give the guidance so sorely needed and tell them it's OK to do so."

The song, which goes on sale today, is released by EMI with a parental guidance sticker warning of "explicit lyrics".

Sir Paul claims it has been

banned by BBC Radio 1

and GMTV.

Sir Paul, citing broadcasters

such as Zoe Ball, who has

sworn on her Radio One breakfast show, and Bob Geldof,

who swore during his Live Aid

appeal, told *The Times*: "I find

it's annoying, I think it's hil-

lous. After all, people do use the word on the telly and on the radio too. It does seem bizarre that TV's own people can swear on a show but you can't swear in a song. I don't understand the difference."

Sir Paul has been paid

£1 million for the collection of

songs written by Lady McCar-

ney. He is expected to donate

the money to animal rights

charities.

A spokesman for the former

Beatle said: "This apparently

seductive little word has been

used in popular culture since

the 16th century. Writers from

James Joyce and D.H. Lawrence to Nick Hornby have em-

ployed it, and miraculously

that has not resulted in Armageddon."

John Peel, the BBC presenter, said yesterday: "There is a tendency for people to claim their records have been banned when in fact they are not being played because they are crap."

"I have not heard this record yet but the lyrics do not sound terribly profound. Of course one feels tremendous sympathy for Sir Paul but he must have known that it was unlikely to get daytime play." Mr Peel said he was not aware of any memo being circulated at the BBC relating to the McCarterney record.

Lady McCartney composed

the album over three decades,

recording the final tracks in

the weeks before her death,

and intended to release the al-

bum before Christmas. When

she died, her husband took

over the project.

On *The Light Comes From Within*,

Lady McCartney sings lead vo-

cals and is backed by her hus-

band on bass and her son,

James, on lead guitar.



The single's cover, with EMI's warning about the lyrics

spokeswoman for the BBC de-
clared yesterday that there was a blanket ban on the song.

She said: "Bearing in mind

audience sensitivity, we might edit as appropriate. If it gets in the Top 40, a radio edit will be played on the chart show." She

added: "I think the spontaneous use of the swear word by presenters

was frowned upon and, afterwards, they were normally asked to apologise.

A spokesman for Capital Ra-

dio in London said the song

was not on its playlist. It might

be considered later but the

swear word would create a

problem. "Generally we try to avoid them."

BBC plans £100m concert showcase to surpass Live Aid

THE BBC is organising a £100 million music extravaganza that will surpass Live Aid as the biggest concert event ever staged in Britain. It will be a showcase for British musical talent and will mark the end of the millennium.

Music Live 2000, which is being backed by the Government, will feature the cream of British talent in fields ranging from opera and jazz to pop in a five-day festival in May. Chart-topping pop artists including Oasis, Pulp, Massive Attack, George Michael, Elton John, Catatonia, the Manic Street Preachers, the Spice Girls and the Lightning Seeds are being approached to perform at dozens of venues across the country.

Mick Hucknall, the Simply Red singer who sits on the Government's music task force, has also been approached to be an adviser and a performer. The soprano Lesley Garrett, the Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel and the violinist Nigel Kennedy are also expected to take part.

The BBC, which will announce the festival today, said it wanted the event to produce the same pride and euphoria that Live Aid did in

Five-day gig
spectacular will
be the biggest
ever held in
the UK, reports
Carol Midgeley

1986. It is also in line with the Government's policy of making more of British music, which achieved domestic sales of £1.08 billion in 1997.

Bill Morris, the festival's director, said: "We want it to be the kind of event where everyone will look back and remember exactly where they were for it."

During the festival, the biggest outdoor event ever attempted by the BBC, the various concerts will be broadcast on BBC1, BBC2, the digital channel BBC Choice and by all the corporation's national radio stations.

The festival will culminate with a 24-hour "Perfect Day" which will be a continuous broadcast of live music at major venues as well as smaller

street festivals featuring lesser-known artists. One plan is to have the BBC Symphony Orchestra play at a stadium before an important football match. There will also be a concert celebrating country and western music.

The concert's promoter, Harvey Goldsmith, who helped with Live Aid, said: "Culturally and financially the UK's music scene is a world leader.

"We have so much to be proud of, so what better way to mark millennium year than with the world's greatest live music?"

It is expected that cities including Glasgow, Belfast, Cardiff and Manchester will hold the biggest events, while smaller concerts will be staged in provincial towns and villages. However, Wembley Stadium and the Royal Opera House will be closed for renovations.

The events will be funded by the licence fee, but the BBC said that it would be seen as a huge investment in British music. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said: "Music Live promises to be a real high point of the millennium year. The country has such a wealth of talent as performers and composers."

Ronan Keating, Irish lead singer with Boyzone, in his new, more statesmanlike guise. He may follow Dana's example

Pop star wants to be President



Keating: teen heart-throb

RONAN KEATING, the lead singer of Boyzone, is considering pursuing a new career as President of Ireland (Audrey Magee writes).

The teenage pop heart-throb said: "It would be incredible. For me, it would be a rags-to-riches story about a fellow who grew up in working-class Bayside, was terrible at school and ended up being President of Ireland. It would be the pinnacle of my career."

Keating has been inspired by the success of Dana, the Eurovision Contest winner who came third in the last presidential contest. The boy-band singer feels he could do better and win a seven-year term. He may run next time, in 2004, or wait until the following election. "I

think I would do well because I can relate to people. I can very happily sit in the pub having a pint with Paddy or go abroad for the country without making a show of myself."

Keating, now more likely to be seen in suit and tie than jeans and baseball cap, desperately wants to be taken seriously. Aged only 21, he is a millionaire, married, and his wife is expecting their first child.

He insists that he is a serious person with a good voice, business acumen and a deep concern for people. He was recently appointed by Dublin to the committee organising Ireland's millennium celebrations. Having tasted politics, is now keen to go further.

ERNIE WISE was last night in a critical but stable condition after undergoing a triple heart bypass operation in a hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

He was semi-conscious and able to open his eyes and squeeze the hand of his wife, Doreen, as she waited by his bedside. Doctors at the Northbridge Medical Centre, where he has been since early December, gave him a 50-50 chance of survival. Mrs Wise said.

The 73-year-old entertainer has been in hospital since he fell ill at his winter holiday home in Boca Raton, on Florida's east coast, only days after celebrating his birthday on November 27.

He suffered two heart attacks within a week and spent almost three weeks in intensive care. The couple celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary last Monday. Although he had been fed through tubes for two weeks, Wise ate a slice of cake and was thought to be recovering well.

His health has been a concern for some time, and he has suffered a series of strokes. Wise's 40-year partnership with Eric Morecambe ended with Morecambe's death from heart failure in 1984.

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Libel expert faces £45,000 bill for feud with partners

Carter-Ruck may seek arbitration to end seven-month dispute, reports Frances Gibb

THE libel lawyer whose name strikes fear into writ recipients is facing a bill of tens of thousands of pounds for legal fees after failing to resolve a dispute with his own partners.

Peter Carter-Ruck, who prides himself on his negotiating skills and a belief that one should "settle rather than sue", may be forced to go to arbitration.

The dispute, now seven months old, arose when the 84-year-old solicitor, a household name and the butt of innumerable *Private Eye* jokes, decided to end his 60-year legal career. Instead of champagne celebrations, he became embroiled in a complicated disagreement and found his name removed as senior partner from the head of the firm's list of partners.

The new letterhead relegated him to "founder and consultant" as if, he told friends at the time, he was some Victorian founder who no longer existed. Now, to further the igno-



Carter-Ruck prefers his old letterhead, bottom, to the one describing him as a "consultant"



believed to have run up fees of £45,000 with the country's biggest law firm, Clifford Chance. The firm has indicated that it will charge much less than that but Mr Carter-Ruck has still been forced to change to a smaller firm of solicitors, Swepstone Walsh.

Yesterday Mr Carter-Ruck said that he could not comment on the situation but Anne-Marie Paget, who until

December was a partner with Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners, said that he might be forced, with reluctance, to go to arbitration.

"There are two sides to every story and I am good friends with the other partners. But everyone there owes their career to Peter, and I think a certain generosity would not come amiss," she said.

Andrew Stephenson, a part-

ner with the firm, said that he could not comment but the partners are believed to hope that a settlement is close.

Mr Carter-Ruck had wanted to relinquish his 18 per cent stake in the firm and remain a consultant on a fixed salary of some £60,000 for three years.

The deal was that the five partners in the firm would retain his name. In return, he wanted

four other solicitors on the staff to be promoted to full partnership. But the existing partners disagreed.

That part of the dispute is believed now to have been settled. The only stumbling block is thought to be legal fees. It was "incredible," Ms Paget said, that that matter was still unresolved.

"This should have been a wonderful time for Peter, when he could take a slightly more back-seat role and enjoy the fruits of many years of toil," she said. After all, clients still want to speak to him and his name still draws them in."



When in Rome: an "empire dress" by Yumi Katsura, with blue pearls and shoulder straps like neo-classical capitals, is modelled at Rome's high-fashion show

£2m art raiders also took £20 for petrol

By PAUL WILKINSON

ARMED robbers who stole art works valued at £2 million also took a £20 note from a gallery attendant to buy petrol for their getaway car.

The two masked men made off from York City Art Gallery with 20 works, including a Turner watercolour worth £500,000, after tying up staff and holding them at gunpoint.

The raiders cut canvases from frames, and removed 14th-century painted wall-panels.

When they came to make their escape they realised their vehicle was low on fuel. So the raiders, who called each other Bert and Tony, took cash from the wallet of one of the attendants at the lay-by just inside the gallery floor with other works damaged by the raiders.

Mr Metcalfe was convinced that the men were stealing to order, he said. "It seems these men knew what they were about," he said. "They had planned it. They had already left the country. The descriptions of the works were being compiled for insurance. Ports and airports are being alerted."

Among the stolen works are two 14th-century gold panels of St Peter and St Paul by Master of Bartholomew; two paintings by Walter Sickert; and a collection very early Italian painted and gold panels.

Richard Green, curator at the gallery, said: "This is the blackest day in our history."

The loss of 19 oil paintings and panels and the Turner, an 1820s watercolour of the ruin of Kievsky Abbey, had left them "devastated". He said: "What has gone is irreplaceable and the robbers seem to have had some kind of plan."

They went mainly for small paintings which could be easily removed. Many are by lesser-known artists with not the most glamorous names like Master of the Annunciation.

Several works were dam-

The Turner watercolour, estimated to be worth £500,000, which was stolen from York City Art Gallery.

Much ado about loveless 'I do'

By ADRIAN LEE

A COUPLE who were matched by a radio station but have never met will marry today in defiance of the protests of Church leaders.

Carla Germaine, 23, a model, and Greg Cordell, 28, a sales manager, won a competition called Two Strangers and a Wedding. They have spoken only once, by telephone, and will meet for the first time at the civil marriage ceremony in Birmingham.

They were selected from 200 hopefuls and matched after a panel, including an astrologer and staff from the local radio station BRMB, analysed their personalities and interests. They will receive a Caribbean honeymoon and a canalside flat and a sports car for a year.

BRMB said that the competition was an experiment based on the model of the arranged marriage traditional in Asian cultures. Christian

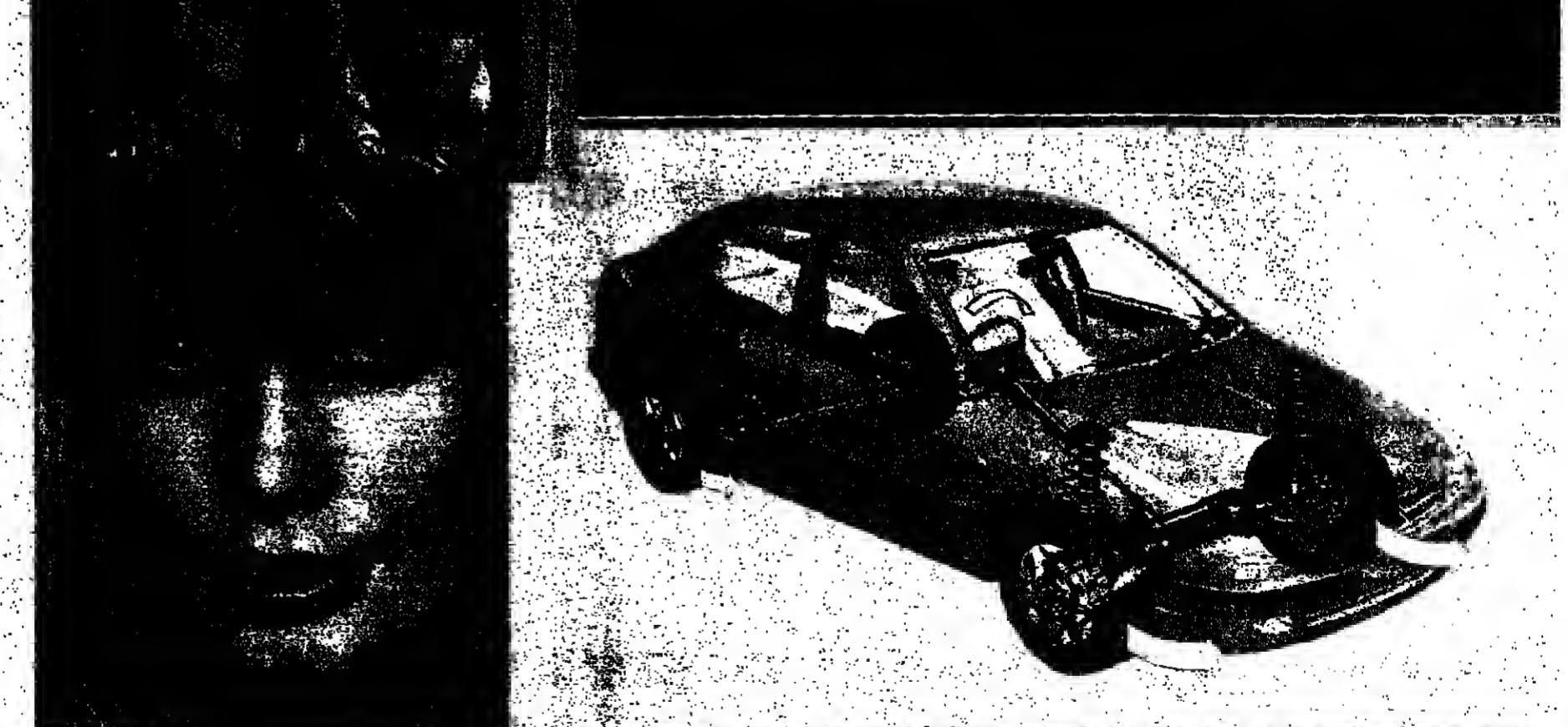
church leaders have urged BRMB to halt the wedding, saying that it will undermine the sanctity of marriage.

In a joint letter, the Right Rev Mark Sower, Anglican Bishop of Birmingham, the Most Rev Maurice Couve de Murville, the city's Roman Catholic archbishop, and the Rev Christina Le Moignan, from the Free Churches, told the radio station: "What you have arranged deliberately prevents the couple meeting and reduces a sacred and meaningful decision to a media event. Both marriage and the human beings involved are too important to be manipulated in this way."

MPs and the marriage guidance group Relate have also criticised the wedding. Tim Rudman, a spokesman for BRMB, said that Mr Cordell and Miss Germaine were free to change their minds "right up until I do".

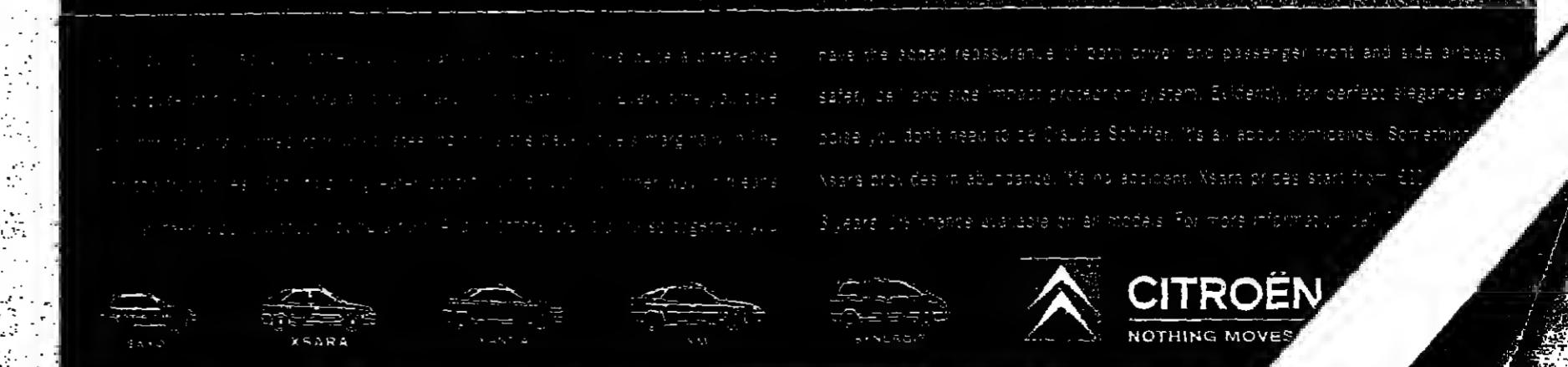


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NOTHING MOVES

Bloody reality of Ulster beatings

Martin Fletcher speaks to an ambulance man who has treated many of the victims

AFTER 21 years as an ambulance man in northwest Belfast, Laurence Robertson has probably attended more victims of "punishment beatings" and kneecappings than any one else in Northern Ireland.

He has been called out hundreds of times from the Ardoyne ambulance station, which is between the loyalist Shankill and republican Ardoyne areas of the city, to treat those attacked on waste ground or in back alleys by paramilitary thugs who use naked terror to control their housing estates. "The stories you hear in the back of an ambulance are unbelievable," Mr Robertson told *The Times*.

He talked in chilling detail about a barbaric practice so common in Northern Ireland that most murder attacks warrant only a couple of paragraphs in the local press. "You never get used to it. You can't. Every single call is an individual human

being. It's not just another statistic," he said. "I've had my fill of them."

The paramilitaries often summon the ambulances and wait till they hear the sirens before kneecapping their victims. That way the victims do not die if the bullets hit an artery. On one occasion when Mr Robertson's ambulance was called to a shooting off the Antrim Road, "as we came into the street a man approached with a mask and his hand in his breast-pocket and said: 'Just drive around the block.' We heard the bang. When we came back there was this guy lying in the road."

On another occasion his ambulance was summoned to a punishment beating near the Ballymurphy estate. "We pulled into a dark street at about 4am. Three cars pulled up next to the ambulance. Some guys

jumped out with masks and burling sticks and went into the house. The hall light went on. We heard bangs and thumps and screams. The guys jumped in the cars and sped off. A girl friend came out screaming and we went in."

The victims may be summoned to be kneecapped, and duly present themselves because the alternative is exile - or worse. "They are told: 'We want you here 9.00 tomorrow night. We're only going to do one leg. If you don't show up we will get you tomorrow or next week but we will get you.' They go because they live in the community, have lived there all their lives and their families live there."

Some kneecappings lead to permanent disablement or death but most of the victims are shot through the

caul or thigh and suffer little long-term damage. Mr Robertson, 42, says: "If someone came up and said you can have five men with sticks or a gun I would say: shoot me. I would take my chance. Some of these beatings are absolutely horrific."

In "crucifixions" the victim is tied to railings, upside down and spread-eagled, and beaten mercilessly. Mr Robertson has seen men with multiple fractures to their legs and arms requiring plates, pins and screws.

There have been thousands of mutilation attacks during the Troubles. The Belfast human rights group Families Against Intimidation and Terror has recorded 1,076 by loyalist and republican paramilitaries since 1993. Many more go unreported.

Locals call the paramilitaries "hairy men" or "the circuit judge".

as in "the circuit judge has been out again tonight", said Mr Robertson, and the attacks have been tolerated by the communities involved. They usually occur in areas where the police have lost control and the victims are generally reckoned to have been drug dealers, joyriders or petty thieves who deserved to be punished.

That may be starting to change, thanks to recent cases where the victims were patently innocent and they or their relatives dared to speak out. Increasingly the paramilitaries are seen not as a policing force but groups seeking power and money.

Last April an IRA gang looking for a child molester broke into the wrong flat and shot an elderly man through both knees and ankles. Three months later Andrew Kearney, 33, bled to death in a block of flats after his kneecappers ripped out the telephone and jammed the door. He had dared stand up to the IRA's North Belfast commander.

Last week *The Times* reported the case of Andrew Peden, a Belfast father who had both legs amputated after being kneecapped by the Ulster Volunteer Force for giving a lift to a friend from a rival loyalist group.

"You never approved of [these attacks] but you felt the victims had done something," said his wife, who has now utterly changed her opinion. "They are judges, jury and executioner," Mr Peden said.

"Nobody deserves to be shot or beaten to a pulp by a mob of masked men," Mr Robertson said. "The law is there to deal with joyriders or breaking into old people's houses and taking £10. Some are picked out by word of mouth and totally innocent. Some are 16, 17 or 18-year-olds. Some are absolutely tragic."

SUNNY LIFE

A three-year-old boy with suspected autism saved his brother's life. William and Edward Miles were playing in their garden when 20-month-old Edward fell into a 4ft-deep pond.

William, who has difficulty speaking, ran indoors to tell his mother, Kate. She thought that he wanted to play but by shouting and tugging her clothes he alerted her to Edward's plight. "He was lifeless and limp when I got him out but then he opened his mouth to breathe," said Mrs Miles. "30 of Ipswich. The boy was treated in hospital for a night."

Wight tax plan

The Isle of Wight is to consider charging tourists a landing tax of 50p a vehicle to help to reduce the £2 million budget deficit that the council expects next year. More than one million people visit the island every year.

Cocaine seizure

Customs officers seized 22kg of cocaine, believed to be worth up to £25 million, at Gatwick Airport. Charles McLeod, 31, and Denise Lambeth, 30, are to appear before Crayley magistrate today charged with importing drugs.

Whisky galore

A pub landlord on the Island of Mull claims to have found the oldest bottle of malt whisky in existence. Robert MacLeod, 47, discovered the bottle of 1869 Old Tormore at the back of his family run bar. He is not planning to sell.

Hot headed

Firefighters called by a concerned resident to a fire on the flat roof of a house in Brighton, East Sussex, found that it was a fire-eater practising his act. A brigade spokesman said: "We've never come across anything quite like that."

Buried ambition

Geoff Smith, 37, who set a record by living underground for 147 days, emerged from the garden of the Railway Inn in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, and said: "I'll not be buried again until I'm carried away in my real coffin."

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We don't need Lib Dems, says Prescott

Remarks highlight existing tensions between Labour MPs, reports Jill Sherman

JOHN PRESCOTT dismissed the need for further links between Labour and the Liberal Democrats yesterday, saying that the party did not need help from anyone else to achieve its manifesto commitments.

His comments came as Paddy Ashdown, the outgoing Liberal Democrat leader, predicted that his party would have ministers in a Labour government after the next election and that his successor would maintain co-operation with the Labour Party.

A BBC poll of 196 Liberal Democrat chairmen appeared to endorse that view, with 50 per cent supporting the existing arrangements, 31 per cent wanting further ties and 14 per cent against links.

But Mr Prescott's remarks will fuel existing tensions among Labour MPs about whether the co-operation between the two parties should

be extended, and underlines his rift with the Prime Minister over the issue. At a meeting with Tony Blair last week several senior backbenchers expressed their concern about further collaboration with the Liberal Democrats and Mr Blair was said to have assured them that no new steps would be taken without consulting the party.

Downing Street has since denied that that was ever said and yesterday officials confirmed that Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet enforcer, and Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat deputy leader, would be meeting this week to discuss areas of further co-operation. A Downing Street spokesman refused to be drawn on the detail but it has been suggested that welfare — particularly pensions

— could be one area of common ground. "There will be an extension of co-operation but we haven't said in what areas," the spokesman said.

Mr Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday made a number of disparaging remarks about the Liberal Democrats, claiming there was no need for "anybody else" to help Labour to create a better Britain. He said that Labour had a majority of 170 and could carry out its pledges on its own and that he had no interest in who succeeded Mr Ashdown.

Mr Prescott also dismissed hopes expressed by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, a Liberal Democrat peer, that the two parties would unite to dominate the next century. "Roy Jenkins has gone through more political par-

ties than I've had dinners," he said jokingly. But Mr Ashdown used an interview with BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* to suggest much closer links between the two parties. "The Liberal Democrats, over the past year, have moved from a party of protest to a party of power," he said.

"The final threshold that takes the Liberal Democrat party into government I think we now leave to my successor. Probably after the next election the Liberal Democrats will move into government."

Mr Ashdown said that his party would, under its new leader, carry on working with Labour to introduce "those reforms and modernisations which our country can benefit from". He insisted that the links would continue because the Prime

Minister was determined to keep them and they were in the interests of both parties.

"We have been working on this, Mr Blair and I, for four or five years," Mr Ashdown said, likening the initial dialogue to a "hesitant crossing across a rope bridge".

"That rope bridge has now been replaced by a multi-lane highway," he said, with several ministers taking part in cross-party talks with Liberal Democrats. He insisted that 80 per cent of party members supported the links with Labour.

Mr Ashdown also let slip that he was expecting his successor to be a Scot. Asked by Sir David Frost about who Roy Bremner would now have to impersonate, Mr Ashdown said they would have a

"Scotch" accent. The three potential candidates known to be considering standing who would fit that bill are Charles Kennedy, Menzies Campbell and Malcolm Bruce. Nick Harvey, the MP for North Devon, who is said by some quarters to be favoured by the leader, is not a Scot.

Mr Harvey, whose campaign is the most organised, suffered a setback when the BBC poll of chairmen put him in fourth position. Of the 87 who wished to comment, 36 favoured Charles Kennedy, 22 Menzies Campbell, 17 Simon Hughes and only four Mr Harvey. Mr Harvey's supporters said their man needed to develop his public profile and that as campaigns manager he would have a good chance to do so in the coming months.

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Robinson: row ended career in government

Robinson expected to quit at next election

By ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRIENDS of Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General, expect him to bow out of politics at the next election.

Mr Robinson, who endured a turbulent 20 months in government, is to meet his constituency party for the first time this week since his resignation at Christmas.

The millionaire businessman has been non-committal about his future and is expected to deflect questions about whether he intends to stand for his Coventry North West seat again.

Local party members believe it is merely a matter of time before he announces he is standing down. Mr Robinson, 60, will have held the seat for 25 years by the time of the next election.

He came to political prominence only recently as patron and supporter of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. His decision to quit the Treasury after enduring relentless scrutiny of his business past, and links to the late tycoon Robert Maxwell, has ensured an end to his career in government.

With more than two years to the likely date of the next election, local party chiefs do not expect such an early declaration of his intent. Support for Mr Robinson remains high within his constituency.

Bill Thomson, chairman of Labour's Coventry North West constituency party, said the £373,000 loan to Peter Mandelson was not an issue locally. He reflected, however, local uncertainty about Mr Robinson's future. He said: "As far as we are concerned he's still our MP. But people are entitled to change their mind."



Simon Hughes with sixth-formers at the "Your Future in Europe" conference in Paris. He hopes that the leadership contest will be gentlemanly

though he is keen to stick to the line agreed by all the would-be candidates — not to come out fighting until Mr Ashdown steps down in the summer — he is aware that a phoney war will ensue for the next six months.

"Everyone will be watching if we put in a good performance in the Commons or on television, and every time we do they'll say, 'We know why they're doing that.'

At the moment, all is calm. The five hopefuls have met and agreed that the leadership contest should be a gentlemanly affair. "We can only try and I hope that it will be," Mr Hughes says. "The next step would be to reach an agreement that none of us would say anything negative about anybody else. That would be an extremely good breakthrough."

It looks set to be a tough battle. According to the poll of the party's local chairmen, Mr Hughes is in third place, be-

hind Charles Kennedy and Menzies Campbell. The other contenders are Nick Harvey and Malcolm Bruce. The crucial issue will be whether Mr Ashdown's collaboration policy with Labour should be extended, or drawn back. Mr Hughes belongs to the draw-

back wing of the party. "Most

of the collaboration so far has been to implement what we agreed before the last election," he says. "Like the others, I'm going to respect the line between what I may say in June or July if I was to stand, and the view I have

now about what we're doing." Mr Hughes entered Parliament in 1983, beating Labour's candidate, Peter Tatchell, the homosexual rights campaigner, in a by-election. He is currently the party spokesman on health and employment.

Before becoming an MP he was an employment barrister, sometimes encountering another lawyer, Tony Blair. "We used to have the occasional drink, but we weren't great friends," he says.

He is a helpful person, an attribute he displayed as we travelled back to London on Eurostar. He promised a horde of rowdy photocopy salesmen from Kent (who were celebrating a good month) that he would look into how they could pitch for a contract at the House of Com-

mons. He also said that he would assist a waiter with a degree in journalism to get a job. "You can make connections for people if you're in MP," he said.

Mr Hughes commends Paddy Ashdown as a leader, but does not want his endorsement as a preferred candidate. "I can't imagine the party would take kindly to it and I can't imagine it would be very helpful to any person who featured in that."

One of the reasons why Mr Hughes is careful about discussing the leadership job is that he is the party's most likely candidate for the mayoralty of London. "In a way, nobody would be wise to make a decision about whether they want to be a candidate now because six months down the

track goodness knows what the political landscape will look like."

Of the five likely candidates, only one, Mr Campbell, is married. "Leaders over the years have been married and unmarried. I don't think it's a central issue," Mr Hughes says.

"He does not mind that his life would be placed under

scrutiny as leader, which he

concedes can be a 'nightmare' job. "You have to go to the party saying, 'Look, I don't think there are any skeletons in the cupboard that would be a problem for the party'."

Could Starsky and Hutch prove an embarrassment? "All

I can say is that there are people considerably older than me there. And I don't go on my own. That would be a very sad state of affairs."

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Hurd aide picked to advise Blair

A Tory right-hand man is moving to No 10, writes Valerie Elliott

A DIPLOMAT who was Douglas Hurd's closest confidant during his period as Foreign Secretary is to become Tony Blair's foreign affairs adviser.

John Sawers, 43, the political counsellor at the Washington Embassy, met Mr Blair briefly in November. He joins the Downing Street 15-hour-a-day treadmill next month when John Holmes, the official described as Mr Blair's "security blankee", becomes Ambassador to Lisbon.

Mr Sawers will be the FO's eyes and ears inside No 10. He has been closely involved in the Iraq conflict and while working for Douglas Hurd was in a group developing Northern Ireland policy for John Major. He will not, however, assume Mr Holmes's role as the Prime Minister's principal private secretary. That will be taken by Jeremy Heywood, who will also be "sherpa" for the Prime Minister at the G8 economic summit.

It is understood that Mr Blair chose Mr Sawers not just for his intellect and reputation for hard work but because he would fit in with the private office team, headed by Jonathan Powell, Mr Powell and Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's spokesman, both interviewed Mr Sawers.

Mr Sawers is probably one of the most "classless" of FO staff. One former colleague said: "When you meet him,

Myles Tierney tragically killed on assignment in Sierra Leone

10th January 1999

APTN welcomes all his many colleagues and friends to celebrate and honour Myles at

The Africa Centre, 38 Kings Street, Covent Garden WC2

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Le Pen fury as his party splits

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

THE French National Front ruptured yesterday into bitterly antagonistic halves, accompanied by a level of acrimony rare even for Europe's largest extreme right-wing party.

Bruno Mégret, the former deputy head of the party who is trying to oust its veteran leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, was elected president of the breakaway National Front-National Movement (Mouvement National) at an extraordinary congress in the southern far-right stronghold of Marignane, completing a breach open for six weeks and simmering for years.

About 17,000 of the party's 40,000 members signed petitions in favour of holding the congress, which was boycotted by M Le Pen and which he dismissed as an assembly of "Lilliputians", a reference to M Mégret's diminutive stature.

M Mégret's challenge to M Le Pen has left both sides straining their vocabularies in search of the most offensive



Mégret hails launch of his new far-right group

M Le Pen, a dab hand at trading unpleasant remarks, came out marginally ahead in the vituperation stakes, describing M Mégret as a "psychopath", "paranoid" and "fraud", surrounded by "a tiny clan of conspirators".

"There is only one National Front," he thundered. "And that is the one I created nearly 30 years ago."

The first major test of the balance of power between the rival groups will come with the European elections in June, when the "Le Penist" and "Mégretist" parties will mount rival campaigns and states of candidates. In the meantime, there is likely to be a vicious legal fight over the National Front's assets, including the party name, insignia, bank accounts and property.

The split within the xenophobic anti-immigrant party is over practical political strategy and personality differences rather than ideology. Where M Le Pen is determined to avoid diluting his extremism (and personal cachet) by alliances with more mainstream

insults. The Mégretists condemned M Le Pen's backers as parasites and compared their 70-year-old chief to a cult leader drunk with power. To symbolise what they insist is M Le Pen's irrelevance, they appointed him to the mocking title of "honorary president" of the National Front-National Movement in recognition of his "historic" role.



A protester in Marignane mocks the far-right National Front for "losing its head"

right-wing groups, the younger man believes that the National Front's route to power is through strategic and pragmatic electoral deals.

M Mégret, 48, enjoys support among the younger and

richer members, and just under half the membership has given him its backing. But polls show that M Le Pen retains the loyalty of the majority of National Front voters.

The split has divided the par-

A funeral in Berlin lays rogues to rest

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

ing pork and he bought into the slot-machine parlour business. This business placed him in tricky company. The big-time owner of various Hamburg brothels became a friend (his absence from the funeral last week was bitterly noted by Tommy Turnschuh), so did Rolf Eden, the closest West Berliner ever had to a playboy.

West Berliners used to like these rags to riches stories and the city admired lovable rogues (who were in truth merely bullies with style) and that may explain why over 500 turned up at the Heerstrasse cemetery.

Although I'm no fan of funerals, I went too, squeezing past the Jaguars and Corvettes. Why was the funeral important? Because one of the defining elements of Berlin — its home-grown mobsters, fences and fixers — has given way to imported organised crime.

Russians are bringing huge sums into the city. Romanians and Bulgarians supply the brothels. Chechens, Kosovans and Kurds transfer fighting skills to drug turf wars. Some neighbourhoods are no-go areas for the police. A patrol was beaten up the other night for trying to stop a brawl in the Neu-Kölln district. Fifty Turks set upon it shouting: "These are our streets."

This is not Franky's world, full of complex criminal protocol. His city has changed; it is less of a club. The police are, not as bent as 20 years ago and are better educated, yet the crime rate is far, far worse.

The old back-scratching deals with Allied quartermasters are a thing of the past. A competitive city press keeps politicians on a short leash. The criminal heart of Berlin has shifted eastwards. Berliners still do not want to accept the metamorphosis of their city.

As usual, they prefer to cling on to a myth and treat Franky as the last, perhaps the very last, of the once-and-future capital's subterranean heroes.

Bonn rejects waste compensation call

Bonn: Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, said yesterday that Germany would reject compensation demands from France or Britain over its decision to cancel nuclear waste treatment contracts worth billions of pounds.

Mr Schröder said in a television interview that Germany was making a sovereign decision to eliminate nuclear energy and that there was no legal foundation for demands from France and Britain over their loss of business processing German waste.

"Every government has that right," he added. "We want to get out of nuclear energy."

Bonn intends to close its 19 nuclear power plants and ban the export of nuclear waste for reprocessing. Germany has no waste-reprocessing centres.

The row has soured relations between Germany and its main European Union partners at a time when Bonn holds the EU presidency.

France and Britain have told Germany it would be breaking legal agreements if it tears up the contracts. The French company Cogema stands to lose £3.2 billion and British Nuclear Fuels would lose £1.2 billion. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 21

ALTERATION TO INTEREST RATE

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Bad become mad as Vatican reformers drive Satan out

The Vatican, which ten days ago decreed that God was not to be imagined as "an old man with a white beard", will this week seek to recast the image of Satan, arguing that the Church needs a "more subtle and sophisticated" definition of evil for the millennium. Richard Owen writes

A Vatican commission of theologians and liturgical experts has revised long-standing 17th-century rituals governing exorcism, or the casting out of devils. A new formula drops references to Satan, or the Devil, as the embodiment of evil, in favour of definitions more compatible with modern concepts of "psychological disturbance".

"In revising the form of words for exorcism, we have rethought the nature of the evil we are trying to root out."

The Prince of Darkness is being cast in a new light in time for the millennium, Richard Owen writes

one member of the commission said. Officials said the Church was not revising "scriptural references" to the Devil, or suggesting that people should cease believing in the "Evil One". But priests conducting exorcisms should deal with evil as a force "working within all individuals" rather than as a force, traditionally embodied as Satan, threatening human beings from without.

Definitions of "demonic possession" and the rituals for dealing with it have largely remained unchanged since Pope Paul V (1605-1622) is-

sued the *Rituale Romanum* in 1614. It was revised under Leo XIII (1878-1903) but not substantially changed.

Monsignor Corrado Baldacci, the Vatican's chief exorcist, said the Church had to adapt to modern thinking and "be more careful in distinguishing between possession by evil spirits and what are more commonly called psychiatric disturbances".

He added: "We are changing the rules for the millennium, as part of the continuing process of liturgical reform which followed the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s."

The new definition will be presented tomorrow by Cardinal Jorge Arturo Medina Estévez, Prefect of the Congregation for the Divine Cult and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

According to Vatican officials, under the new rituals priests will be encouraged not to refer any longer to the Prince of Darkness, the Accursed Dragon, the Foul Spirit, the Satanic Power or the Master of Deceit. Instead the formulas refer more vaguely to "the cause of evil". They also introduce for the first time an appeal to the Virgin Mary to help to combat evil in an "afflicted individual", a reflection of Pope John Paul II's personal commitment to the Marian cult.

Both Old and New Testaments refer to Beelzebub, the

Devil One, or Satan, with the Devil often depicted as Lucifer, a rebel angel expelled from Heaven, a theme taken up in Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*. The Revelation of St John (12.7) describes "war in Heaven between the angels" (led by Michael) and "the Dragon, that ancient serpent who led the whole world astray whose name is the Devil, or Satan".

Jesus cast out demons in several famous New Testament passages, and St Mark (1.13) and St Matthew (4.11) both record that Jesus was "tempted by Satan" during his 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness.

But some modern theologians regard the depiction of Satan as a reptilian beast with cloven hooves, wings and a tail, as a medieval in-

vention, and prefer St Augustine's definition of evil as "the absence of good".

According to Signor Baldacci, every Roman Catholic diocese is supposed to have at least one priest qualified in exorcism. Under the rituals currently in force, the priest lays his hands on the head of the possessed person while reciting the words *exorcio te*.

"There is no harm in carrying out an exorcism where it turns out to be unnecessary, whereas not to carry out an exorcism where it really is needed can be catastrophic."

Father Amorth said.

Monsignor Baldacci said that of every 1,000 people

who turned to an exorcist for help, only "five or six" were in reality possessed by evil

spirits. Thirty cases in a thousand qualified as "demonic obsession, festation or disturbance". The rest were "in need of psychiatric help".

Father Gabriele Amorth, President of the International

Leading article, page 21

BOB PEARSON / AFP



Devil on a Tarot card

Lewinsky returns to Senate turmoil

FROM JAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MONICA LEWINSKY, a baseball cap pulled low over her eyes, reluctantly flew to Washington from Los Angeles as President Clinton's Senate impeachment trial lurched into an unpredictable and highly contentious realm.

Democrats and Republicans were at each other's throats yesterday after the former White House trainee was forced to return to the capital to be questioned again about her affair with Mr Clinton.

Democrats said her treatment amounted to intimidation. To add to the turmoil, Trent Lott, leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, said he would send written questions to Mr Clinton today to clear up "inconsistencies in his testimony". White House lawyers said they, not Mr Clinton, would answer.

Both sides poured out their anger on the Sunday talk shows and the ill feelings are likely to be aired again today when the Senate is due to take up two crucial votes. One is a motion to dismiss the perjury and obstruction of justice charges against Mr Clinton. It was proposed by Robert Byrd, the crusty but widely respected Democrat who is a stickler for Senate procedures.



Monica Lewinsky, escorted by aides and bodyguards, arrives back in Washington to face further questioning about her affair with the President

He will argue that it is time to recognise that the requisite 67 votes needed to convict — two thirds of the 100 Senators — are simply not there and it is time to move on. The Byrd motion could pass with a majority vote of 51 senators or more, but there are only 45 Democrats and there was no sign yesterday that six Republicans were prepared to break party ranks.

The second vote will be on whether to proceed with the trial by calling witnesses. The use of witnesses could extend the proceedings by weeks, although Mr Lott insists that there would be stringent curbs on cross-examination.

Democrats hope they can round up Republican support against witnesses, a big step towards bringing the trial to a speedy conclusion with a third vote to convict or acquit. No one was sure that this could happen, but there are Republicans who are worried that the trial is harming the party's popularity.

Ms Lewinsky flew to Washington on the orders of a federal judge after she refused the request by Henry Hyde, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, for a voluntary interview, on her lawyers' ad-

vice. Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, used his muscle on the Republican side, arguing successfully to Judge Norma Holloway that Ms Lewinsky was obliged to make herself available under his deal giving her immunity from prosecution.

The re-emergence of Mr Starr infuriated Democrats, who said it confirmed their view that he was no more than a Republican "agent" on a

witch-hunt against the Presi-

dent. Mr Starr insisted that he was complying with the statute covering his appointment.

In talking to Ms Lewinsky, Republican prosecutors will want to go over several key topics. One is her assertion that Mr Clinton was not a passive partner to oral sex, but fondled her sexually on nine occasions. They will also ask her whether there was a plot to cover up the retrieval of his gifts to her and her efforts to find a job away from Washington.

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Naked truth about grooming

AMID the frantic couture schedule (not the shows but the endless dinners and parties), Chanel hit on a truly inspired piece of corporate entertainment. Taking over the Turkish baths in a former Parisian mosque, they invited the international fashion press for an evening of body scrubs, steam baths, massage - and very little clothing.

Even though everyone pretended not to look, this was quite an eye-opener - as you might imagine - and yet another insight into national characteristics. The first to be scrubbed down, first to immerse themselves in the freezing plunge-pool were the Germans; then came the toned, glossy-haired Americans; the naturally dainty French; and

lens, which goes to show that while fashion has become international, when it comes to grooming, we are still the products of geography.

■ LONDON and New York aren't the only cities with boutiques that take the fashion-as-art concept seriously. Paris, though surprisingly slow to catch on to the idea given its intellectual leanings, opened Colette two years ago on the Faubourg Saint Honore and, to and behind, the handbag-on-a-plinth, desert-boots-in-a-glass-case style of shopping arrived with a vengeance. So much so that a few months ago Ramdane, Amour and Artus, three cheeky, skateboard-trotting twentysomethings, opened an antidote. L'Epicerie (The Grocery), at 30 Rue du Temple in the Marais, takes a deliberately irreverent, chaotic approach to retailing, although its merchandise is nothing if not upscale.

Mark Jacobs was so taken with the concept that he offered to design an accessory for the boutique and has invited the trio to stay at his New York apartment for the ready-to-wear collections next month.

L'Epicerie was such a success that it was forced to close

because it ran out of stock. The new merchandise will be an camouflage print, from L'Epicerie's own streetwear label to the limited-series items made exclusively for the shop by names such as Jeremy Scott, Eric Halle and, of course, a clutch of Dutch designers. At this rate Marks & Spencer won't have to do a thing to the design of its stores: the fashion pendulum will decree that drab fittings and impenetrable layouts are the last word in retail chic.

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The real couture customers do not get discounts and stay away from the catwalks



FASHION EDITOR

Catherine Zeta-Jones and Liv Tyler seemed to be enjoying themselves at Versace, although it's not always easy to tell. Hollywood's female celebrities have such preternaturally bright smiles and such unnaturally perfect posture (the better to display those darling designer donations) that they often look as though their scalps are being permanently winched upwards by invisible pulleys. Are they bona-fide customers? Probably not, even though the Oscars have replaced society balls as the only occasion to wear any of these clothes, and despite the fact that Donatella Versace is on a mission to make couture appeal to a younger set — with geometric shapes in aggressively modern fabrics. Naomi Campbell, encased in a strapless wool dress pierced with metal shards that clinked on to the catwalk every time she turned energetically, looked as though she had been struck by lightning. At the other end of

the scale, it's hard to imagine who goes to the more established couturiers for a £10,000 day suit. Chanel and Valentino did their best work for night (Chanel's matt sequined tops and chiffon columns were beautiful) and stumbled with awkward daywear: Chanel with lumpy harem trousers and geometric shapes in aggressively modern fabrics. Naomi

Campbell, encased in a strapless wool dress pierced with metal shards that clinked on to the catwalk every time she turned energetically, looked as though she had been struck by lightning. At the other end of

the press, fluctuate dramatically. If a client is young, pretty and famous — and can fit into the couture samples — she could snap up quite a bargain.

If she's the wife of a South American dictator, she might find French inflation running rampant and fabric running out. The women sitting in the front rows are frequently there for the cameras. The real customers are often tucked up in Riyadh. They prefer to buy via video and do not even get discounts. They don't even need to fly in for fittings. Many regulars have their measurements encrypted at their favourite houses in the form of a seamstress's mannequin.

To track down the lesser-spotted couture client (an endangered species if ever there was one), it is sometimes necessary to stray from the beaten track of the catwalk.

At a small, by these standards, private gathering in honour of Emanuel Ungaro last week, for instance, around 80 faithful couture customers were invited for supper — and a chance to show off their made-to-measure lace cocktail dresses. And very pretty they all looked, too: not ostentatious, not geriatric, not especially vacuous — not any of the things one might imagine a couture customer to be.

According to Ungaro's wife, Laura, the house recently picked up 20 new customers — several of whom are Russian. Quite a statistic at a time when the world is supposedly tightening its belt. They would have found plenty to please at his show that day, where the models padded around on rose petals in layers of gauzy chiffon, coloured, lacy peasant skirts and cropped tops, and the audience almost passed out from the after of roses that had been hosed over the place.

At Givenchy, a house insider estimates that Alexander McQueen has attracted around 50 or 60 clients — women who return season after season for that dominatrix tailoring (this season it got a 1950s twist). One husband, accompanying his wife to a fitting there, responded to her lament that she had nowhere to wear the ballgown he had selected for her by promising to throw the dress a lavish party.

Jean Paul Gaultier has been picking up clients, too, since he gave up his job as co-presenter of *Eurotrash*, the Channel 4 series whose main contrib-

utor to modern culture is to bring the silicone implants of various porn stars to the attention of Britain. He has developed the anorak's delight in couture details, from the pleating that wound and twisted its way round the bodies to the faultless tailoring of the jaunty, manly trouser suits that could have swagged off the catwalk into many a stylish woman's wardrobe.

Even the evening wear, despite Moorish styling (a theme that popped up at Valentino and Ungaro: take out shares in huge ornate earrings now), was restrained. Here, a black jersey column with slinky cut-outs; there, a pale gold mousseuse empire-line dress with a beaded bustier, worn over slim trousers. Best not to dwell on the jokey pieces — you can take the *terrible* out of the *enfant*, but you cannot always take the *enfant* out of the *terrible*.

That couture clients still exist at all makes it difficult to know on what basis to judge the clothes. On one hand, couture is meant to be the fashion designer's equivalent of Rachmaninov's Third — incredible workmanship gets the work-out of its life and arcane techniques get tossed around like rose petals.

Galliano's theme at Dior was Surrealism; there were wonderful back-to-front Prince of Wales trouser suits and evening gowns with

Cocciu figures etched on them, but thematic clothes rarely work outside their context.

The best pieces were the simplest: a black silk column suspended from a diamond choker, a Wallis Simpson calf-length silk skirt and silk shell top with a sash caught in a clasp that had been fashioned into a Da-lesque eye.

If you are judging by virtuoso displays, Christian Lacroix produced the collection of last week: a ravishing display of silk and tulle that had been whipped into extraordinarily lovely, vaguely 18th-century evening wear that looked as fresh and care-free as a baby's smile.

Even the enormous violet silk ballgown, caught up in a side bow, with tiny buttons down the back and a corsage of 18th-century emerald flowers, looked light as sea mist, and that's some kind of genius.

But even couture clients reject some outfits on the ground that there isn't a place, apart from a Michael Jackson video, where they would look appropriate. Josephus Thimister, a Dutch designer with the aura of a disapproving accountant, is offering an alternative vision. His architectural shapes in *éau-de-Nil* python, parachute silk or tulle-enclosed canvas were starkly poetic and achieved the hitherto impossible: they made couture

is tailoring — cue tuxedos with white skeleton bones picked out on them, Victorian coat dresses, and those clerical frock coats that seem to crop up in every costume drama ever made. Several thousand outfits later when you thought things couldn't get any worse, they did: the lights went on and they ran through the entire show again. Not surprisingly, Catherine and Liv didn't show up. But Victor and Rolf do have customers galore, apparently. It is just that most of them happen to be museums.

I

deformities were a speciality and Madonna liked them, so I didn't have the heart to argue.

The concept this time was

Showing Your Collection in the Dark. This is so silly that it

needs no further comment,

except to say that it was also

boring once you got past the

idea that everything was in

black and white and the infra-

red lighting made the white

bits jump out.

Victor and Rolf's speciality

is tailoring — cue tuxedos with white skeleton bones picked out on them, Victorian coat

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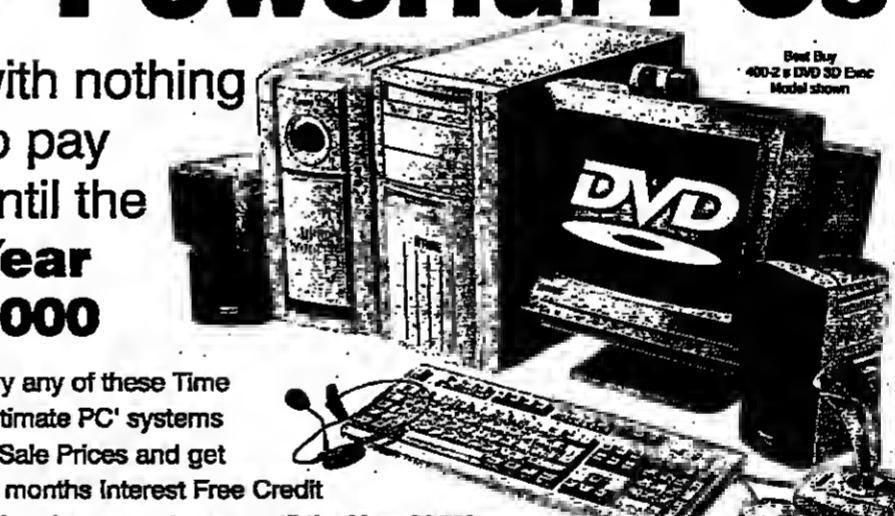
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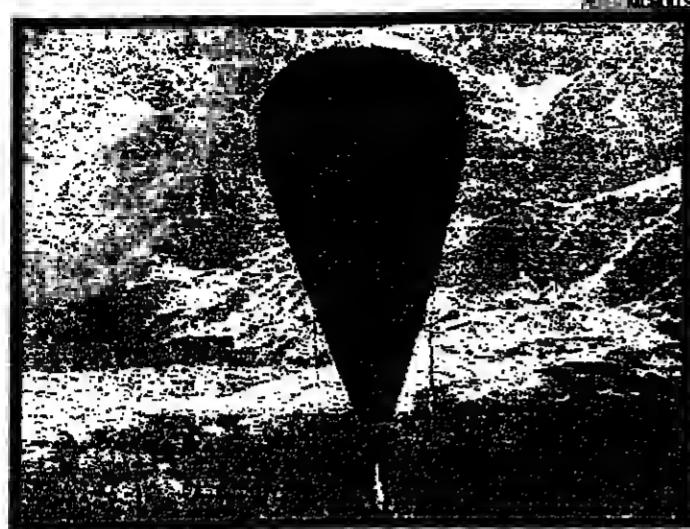
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Taking the taste for adventure to new heights



Role model: Richard Branson's Virgin Global Challenger

It is the time of year when brochures on my doormat tempt me to go ballooning in Cappadocia and friends announce that they're going glacier skiing. Nobody just lies on a beach any more. Smart hedonism means seeking out extreme experiences.

The smart hedonists have smart role models such as the balloonist Richard Branson and the polar explorer Ranulph Fiennes. These high-profile adventurers inspire increasing numbers of couch potatoes to set out in search of similar thrills.

For those with the temperament for it, taking risks is more fun, sexy and exciting — it's essential. Some people don't really feel alive unless they get the chance to look death in the face. I'm not one of these. I asked a psychotherapist

why and she said: "Because you have got a life," meaning creative fulfilment through family, art and career. The expanding population of under-40s without such satisfactions provides the market for the new extreme leisure industry.

This market could stand some education. In our controlled lives the most daring thing most of us do is hit the new euro key on the computer. We never meet nature on a daily basis. The Prince of Wales once called Ranulph Fiennes "mad but marvellous". I suspect that most people only heard the second adjective. Nor do the less privileged appreciate that

their role models take their risks with the benefit of the best training and back-up money can buy.

Sadly, recent weeks have brought tragic and abundant proof that ordinary people doing ordinary things no longer know Mother Nature well enough to give her the respect she deserves. Four climbers were killed by an avalanche near Ben Nevis and a boy of 11 died after trying out his new fishing rod on a trip in the Bristol Channel.

In both cases the warnings of weather forecasters were ignored. Recently, when gale-force winds were predicted, 70 amateur sailors

were rescued off the coast of Essex alone.

And some people never learn. Sarah Woodroffe, who fell 800 feet from a mountain in Glencoe and broke her neck, left hospital last week. She announced that she would be returning to mountain-climbing. "It was like being on a roller-coaster when you lose your stomach," she said of the fall.

I could cite many more tragedies, which suggest that people who choose extreme sports to spice up their lives are doing so without being able to calculate the risks. Within my own circle of friends, one paraglided to death

and another gave up the sport after hitting a thermal which nearly took him to the stratosphere.

In contrast to this tragic atmosphere, I remember interviewing Lord Hunt, the leader of the Everest expedition. Instead of going to me, he surprised me with a question: "Did you ever think of giving up?" I asked. "Every morning" he admitted, explaining that it was the duty of an expedition leader to calculate the risk of losing lives.

The only people concerned about our increasing appetite for risk are insurers, whose statistics show the associated death claims rising year-on-year at about 10 per cent. Maybe it's time the mad-but-marvellous squad used their influence to promote adventure education for people who share their courage but not their advantages.

PAUL COUSINS

Why I stay with the man who beat me

Arabella Melville, an academic, claims she has stopped her partner being violent, says Penny Wark

The damage, says Arabella Melville, was "absolutely minimal". That is how she describes 15 years of abuse by Colin Johnson, the man she loves. She flexes her right hand.

"One slightly damaged finger joint," she says unwillingly. "That finger has straightened out and works normally. For me, minimal." For much of those 15 years she was so frightened of Johnson that she believed he could kill her, yet now, she seems to be excusing him. "It was never a continuous thing that lasted for a long time. It was lashing out. It wasn't considered."

Two things are remarkable about Melville's story. One is that 25 years after she met Johnson, she still adores him and they still live together; the other is that it is now five years since Johnson hit her. This is not because he sought change, but because Melville came to believe that she could alter his behaviour. By her own analysis, she has, and this is the subject of her new book, *Difficult Men: strategies for women who choose not to leave*.

Her theory is controversial, straddling both the central feminist mantra about taking power, and relying on the contradictory premise that women should take responsibility



Arabella Melville and Colin Johnson: "I always had the fear that if he wasn't in control he could do some really serious damage to me. I really believed he was capable of killing me"

for their partner's bad habits. Change, she maintains, is always possible. By refusing to tolerate Johnson's violent behaviour, and temporarily walking away when she sees it coming, she has taken control, she argues. One imagines this is not quite what the Home Office Minister Paul Boateng had in mind last week when, in response to a report that nearly one in 20 Britons had suffered domestic violence, he called for "a basic shift in attitude... towards the day when such conduct is universally recognised as reprehensible".

Melville, the product of a solid middle-class upbringing in Birmingham, is a gentle, friendly woman of 50. An academic based at York University, she writes guidance on cancer services for the NHS, but her private life is grounded in Porthmadog where she lives with Johnson, a diabetic who is becoming progressively ill. Her appearance is neat, though when we meet in London it rapidly becomes clear that her confidence is less easily controlled.

She was 26 when she met Johnson, and already rebelling against her background. Unhappy about the use of animals in her field of experimental psychology, she had given up academic life and become a nude model. Through this she

met Gerald Kingstand, the anti-hero of *Castaway fame*, and then his friend, Johnson. "Colin was wild and attractive, but most important was the intellectual philosophical thing: thinking things through and not stopping at some taboo. He has always been totally exacting," she says.

He is also nine years her senior and was then a confident businessman. The abuse started gradually, though she claims not to remember when she first hit her. "His ex-wife used to say, has he started hitting you yet? I recognised that Colin had reacted violently but I didn't imagine I could be the victim of it."

"Things started going downhill when he went from rich to

penniless and lost confidence. The outbursts of anger and frustration became more frequent. It wasn't focused on me. I just happened to be there. I remember trying to crawl under the sofa to hide because I was so afraid. He didn't seem to see that."

He was abusive verbally very frequently, daily, during

the middle period of our relationship, after the first five years. If it's constant, it's undermining, but the actual physical violence was rare, once a year. There is also the smashing of things, the throwing of bottles against the wall. That is maybe not a danger to you but it reminds you and it happened a lot if things were going well, there would be a lot more mutual respect but if we had failed at setting up a project, he became very obnoxious.

"I think he didn't feel he was in control and all this time he's been trying to control me because he's afraid of me getting away. I always had the fear that if he wasn't in control he could do some really serious damage to me. I really believed he was capable of killing me but he wouldn't survive long after that because

there's no doubt that he loves me deeply." She is more graphic in a short section of her book. "He held me by the hair to make sure he had my full attention as he shouted. It hurt. I told him it hurt. He didn't listen or didn't hear. I tried to pull his hands away. Falling, I thumped his hand with a torch I was holding. That was a bad mistake."

"He snatched the torch and started hitting me with it. I held up my hands to protect my face. Smash. Smash. My hand took the full force of the blows. The torch broke. I ran away, bruised and crying."

But she stayed. Why? Was she frightened of who she might meet? She had af-

ter all been bullied at school and was later dominated by the man she married, who eroded her confidence by criticising her.

"I wasn't frightened of being

on my own, it was entirely emotional. Frequently I got to the point of being so wretched that I would think about gathering my things. Then Colin would turn and the person you love reappears and I would think, I love him, and I do, and I always have, but I love the in-

telligent person, the sexy person, the exuberant and outgoing and witty person. Nobody else has been able to make me laugh as consistently as he does. The things I love about Colin were always too strong for me to go." She shakes her head and laughs.

The turning point came during a course of counselling she had undertaken in the hope of changing her relationship with Johnson. When she finally acknowledged his violent outbursts, her counsellor encouraged her to "see" that Melville's own defensiveness — her inability to talk, hiding her face, crying — provoked Johnson into seeing her as the object of his frustration. The crucial point was that as her failure to stand up for herself made Johnson's violence more probable, it might be possible to reduce the probability of violence by behaving differently.

"It never happened after that," says Melville. "It was like the light coming on. After that session I talked to Colin about the violence and the impact on me. I'd never before been able to explain clearly to him how destructive it was. As soon as he started to behave in a way I recognised as threatening or abusive, insulting me, I started saying, sorry, I'm not putting up with this. I would leave the room, go to my own room, leave the house if necessary. He would

try to stop me leaving but I would do that very early in the process, before he was really out of control. If you do that with total regularity that abusive behaviour starts to become less common."

"One of the terrible mistakes women make is to think that if they are better, more attractive, more exciting, maybe he would stop getting angry with them. They reward him for his behaviour and that is playing into his hands. My approach involves the woman enhancing her own power."

"Relationships are in a dynamic balance and if one part changes, inevitably the other part will change," she replies.

"When you see a pattern of fear and the reaction to it, you know it's not going to be just true for yourself. Colin wasn't willing to go to a therapist and that was one of the reasons for the awful frustration that I felt. I saw it as his problem and felt powerless until I realised that I wasn't. It doesn't have to be your problem, for you to set about solving it."

"If the man you love also loves you, you shouldn't have to solve it too."

"Yes," she says quietly. There is a long pause. "I don't really have an answer to that."

• *Difficult Men*, published by Vermilion on February 4, £6.99

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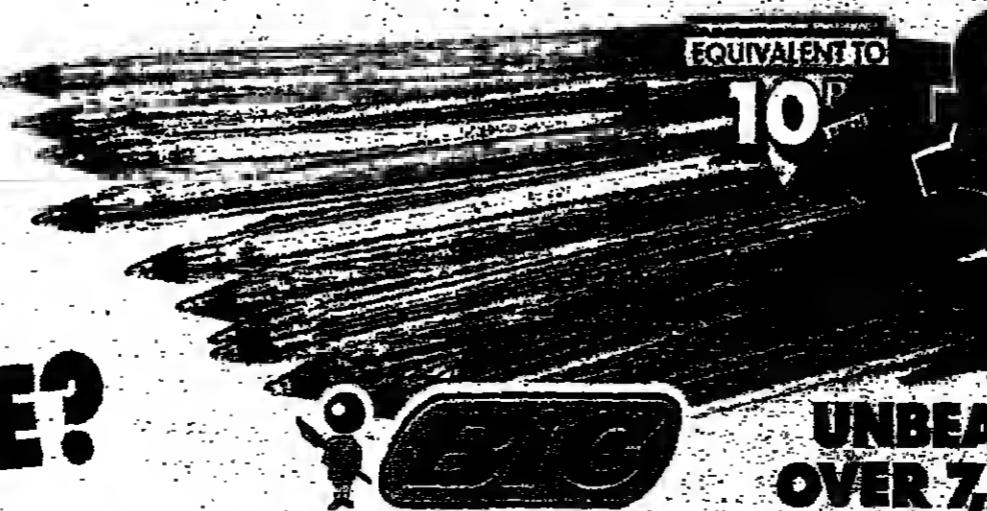
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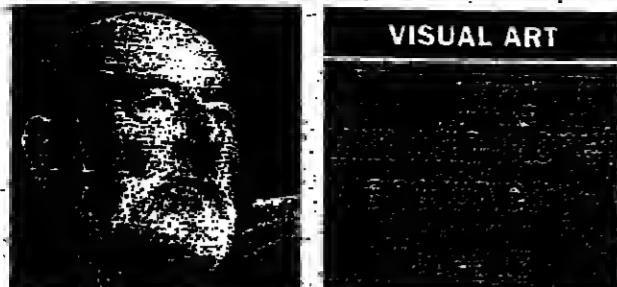
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VISUAL ART

THE TIMES

ARTS

POP

Merchandise
caroline
NME

Making drama out of the truth

The problem with transforming journals into plays is evident. Where is the dramatic conflict, where the tension to be found in writings which tend to move forward plotlessly, shapelessly and all too chronologically? And the problem is still more acute if the denouement is predictable, as is the case with the two diary-dramas that have just opened in London. We can hardly be astonished when Marie Bashkirtseff, protagonist of *Brief Candle* (New End, NW3), dies at 24 because a narrator in the splendidly robust form of Denis Quilley has told us at the beginning that she will do precisely that. It is much the same with the multiple mortalities in Mick Gordon's *Intimate Death* (the Gate, W1).

Does this matter? In the case of *Brief Candle*, I fear so. In that of *Intimate Death*, which comes to W1 via workshops at the National, not too much. At the start Gordon's staging of the journals of the Paris psychologist Marie de Hennezel made me feel so go-at that all thoughts of shape and plot evaporated. But by the end I had to admit that Gordon had created a piece as sensitive and absorbing as Peter Brook's somewhat similar series of case-studies, *The Man Who*.

De Hennezel works in a hospice, and at first struck me as taking an offputting relish in her job. It is not that she is *morbid* or *ghoulish*, just that she sounds as if she is committing that most un-English of sins, invasion of privacy. How would you like to breathe your last in the company of a woman for whom it is "an unforgettable opportunity to experience true intimacy"? I listened to Gillian Barge's formidable Marie gravely babbling on about

death being "our crowning moment", a sweet and tender event that "binds us to every other human being" and "leads me back to the essential questions of life"; and felt that, were it their object, I would ensure that my last words were "blast your impudence".

But gradually I realised that the problem was not the content but the structure. Instead of hammering us with all this editorialising before showing us any of the human material from which it is derived, Gordon should have interspersed it with the scenes that occur in and round the hospital bed ominously

THEATRE

standing stage-centre. If Marie talked of "integrating death with life" and so on between encounters with her patients, she would gain in credibility, sympathy and trust — and the evening in variety.

It takes far too much time, to see that she handles the dying yet oddly relieved to find she isn't in a convalescent home, speaks of her husband, God and the blue, blue sky with new candour. A mother, herself a doctor, gives her comatose daughter the blessing that some deep inside her seems to become permission to let go.

Amelia Brown, Nina Conti, Iain Fraser, Michael Hadley and Nicholas Tizzard, each signalling the moment of death by clambering from bed and quietly exiting, are equally impressive as terminal cases whose

Nina Conti in *Intimate Death*, Mick Gordon's London staging of the journals of a Paris psychologistBENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE

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■ VISUAL ART

A link with Monet

This week in
THE TIMES



■ DANCE

Pina Bausch brings her innovative dance work *Viktor* to Sadler's Wells
OPENING: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ THEATRE

The comic talent of Frances de la Tour is put to use in *The Forest* at the National
OPENING: Thursday
REVIEW: Next week



■ FILM

Writer's block plagues Joseph Fiennes as the Bard in *Shakespeare in Love*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ MUSIC

Bernard Haitink conducts the eerie *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* at the Festival Hall
CONCERT: Saturday
REVIEW: Next week

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ARTS

GALLERIES: Nicolette Jones meets one of the last living links to the celebrated household and garden at Giverny



A life devoted to preserving the heritage of a genius: Jean-Marie Touloumou in front of his step-great-grandfather's paintings at the Royal Academy's *Monet in the 20th Century* show

High priest of the Monet cult

As the current Royal Academy exhibition earns Claude Monet yet more admiration, one man finds himself cast again in the role of Guardian of the Monet Heritage. He is Jean-Marie Touloumou, who never met Monet but has more personal knowledge of his world than most.

Touloumou spent his childhood visiting Monet's house at Giverny. It must have been an extraordinary household. His great-aunt, Blanche Huchette-Monet, was Monet's step-daughter by his second marriage to Alice Huchette, who died in 1911. Blanche, moreover, was also Monet's daughter-in-law, wife of Monet's son Jean, who died in 1914. After this, Blanche became Monet's housekeeper and secretary until his death in 1926 and continued to occupy the house for the rest of her life.

Touloumou — Monet's step-great-grandson — lived with his parents 150 metres from his great-aunt. His grandmother was Suzanne, another of Alice's six children by her first marriage, who moved in with Monet when Alice did. Suzanne died when Touloumou's mother was only one year old, which prompted Monet to show considerable kindness to the little girl.

Touloumou is not a blood relation, then, but journalists would like him to be. Indeed, one suggested fancifully that he might be Monet reincarnated, because he was born in 1927, nine months after Monet's death, and because he is also a painter who has described himself as "dependent on the

goodwill of light on nature". This idea makes Touloumou laugh and grimace, with a hint of uneasiness: "I am interested in Indian mysticism," he admits, apparently in jest.

Touloumou visited his great-aunt almost daily when he was little, not least because she would give him chocolate. Nobody talked much about Monet to him then. "But we were completely in the environment of Monet. Nothing was changed, because Blanche didn't want to move anything from how it was when Monet was alive."

Blanche preserved the furnishing and decoration, observed the household routine he had established, and continued to cook the food he liked.

Touloumou now finds himself the source of recipes for what Monet used to eat. Young Jean-Marie played in the garden that Monet had planted, and in a house that was full of pictures whose influence is still visible in Touloumou's work.

He left Giverny when he was 20,

and worked — because he could not make a living from his painting — as an architect and in garden design. It was only later, when he had married a Monet historian and was living in Paris, that he and his wife decided to return to live in the family house in Giverny, close to Monet's embracing garden, as the house was unthatched. "Two days later, German officers arrived in a car — Blanche was a bit afraid — and they said: 'Madame, we've got your letter. The house will be out of bounds.'

With this assistance it was restored, after ten years of neglect by the French Academy (to whom Monet's other son Michel had left the house, with money from the Giverny Foundation in America and Lila Wallace of *Reader's Digest*).

The garden is not, Touloumou confesses, quite as it was. It was, he thinks, more like the original when it was first restored — but little by little

it has been enhanced for the public to ensure that there is colour all year round. In Monet's day, parts were sometimes not in bloom.

Much had been lost when the restoration began, but more could have been destroyed. Touloumou recalls how, when he was 13 and France was occupied, Blanche wrote to the Nazi headquarters in Paris, pleading that the house be unthatched. "Two days later, German officers arrived in a car — Blanche was a bit afraid — and they said: 'Madame, we've got your letter. The house will be out of bounds.'

A sign on the gate forbade German soldiers to enter. The restraint is remarkable, given Goering's reputation for appropriating pictures and the fact that Monet's collection included Cézanne, Sisley, Pissarro and De Gas.

Monet was not the only influence

on Touloumou's painting. He was taught the basics of the art at seven by his grandfather, the American artist Theodore Butler. Blanche, who

■ GALA

Opera North's showcase

The best from Barstow

Salomé isn't quite the same without the head on the platter. Or is it? Those who have been disappointed that nothing in Opera North's Richard Strauss gala evening was to be staged were reckoning without the extraordinary and ageless talent of the soprano Josephine Barstow. At the end of this concert she gave one of the finest performances of her career in the final scene from *Salomé*.

No growing drama of initiation had prepared her for the (no physical) *Dance of the Seven Veils* had led up to it, other than in the vividly imagined choreography of the English Northern Philharmonia conducted by Opera North's music director, Steven Sloane. Yet, Barstow was there, in her own imagination, under that vast moon; pleading first-like,

OPERA

child; then with the dignity of one who has made her final decision, for the head of Jokanaan, Barstow's only nod to the historical art was in the slightest inclining of the body as she leant forward as if to listen for the moment of execution. And then a single, light touch of the lip with her finger tip as she contemplated her first kiss.

Everything else was concentrated in the voice: a basso profundo of defiance against her mother, the bright, feverish gleam unique to Barstow's *Salomé* as speech and song fuse; the silver centre of a single high note as the *Geheimnis der Liebe*, the secret of love, is glimpsed. Barstow was ably supported by Stuart Kale's fiercely animated Herod and Carole Wilson's formidable Herodias.

The English Northern Philharmonia had, of course, been working towards this point all evening. The keening priest-priest-oubi inseparable from the haunting, limar palette of *Salomé* had already shown his mettle at the Presentation of the Rose in an orchestral suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*. Maddeningly, we were not told who did the cut-and-paste job, which was actually more of an affectionate, old-style scrapbook of reminiscences of the opera. Some of the scraps were, indeed, a little ragged round the edges, but Sloane judged to a nicely the spread of schmaltz required for the succession of waltzes.

And earlier, a smaller section of the orchestra sharpened their wits for Strauss's own orchestral suite, *Le bourgeois gentilhomme*, played with due regard for both its merriment and its melancholy.

HILARY FINCH

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CONCERTS

San Francisco sparkle



Mercury Rev's Jonathan Donahue: reluctant frontman with charisma to spare at the Astoria last Thursday

ARTS

POP
Elvis is back!

Maximum revs

Of the two dozen or so acts that performed at the Astoria last week under the NME Carling Premier Shows banner, none has been talked up by media taste-makers more vigorously than Mercury Rev. Their fourth album, *Deserter's Songs*, a delicate and at times wilfully eccentric collection of dispatches from the American rock underground, was heaped with critical praise out of all proportion to its artistic and commercial achievements and, after ten years of erratic manoeuvring, the band from Buffalo, New York, has found itself in the full glare of the spotlight.

On Thursday Mercury Rev responded with an unexpectedly forceful performance that mixed the mournful mood and

edgy dynamics of contemporaries such as Radiohead and Spiritualized with the grandeur of progressive rock giants including Neil Young and even Pink Floyd. It was, in short, one hell of a show.

Apart from a rather flat reworking of Nick Cave's *Into My Arms* and a raging encore of John Lennon's *Isolation*, the set was divided equally between material from *Deserter's Songs* and the band's first album, *Yerself is Steam*, released in 1991. Exuding a studious air of application, the six musicians pushed off with *Goodness On A Highway*.

Although singer and guitarist Jonathan Donahue looked a reluctant frontman, he was not without charisma, and his high, fragile voice lent a poignant twist to *The Funny Bird*.

"ELVIS tickets!" the touts were yelling, doing a brisk trade which they were denied in the king's lifetime. Presley set foot in Britain but once and briefly, when his plane refuelled here in 1960. This arguably made the "virtual Elvis" show his British debut — Presley's digitally enhanced image on a huge screen and his youthful voice accompanied live on stage by his now ageing former band and one-time backing singers.

Natalie Cole had no idea what she was starting when she recorded the first beyond-the-grave duet with her late father eight years ago. This was the second coming not quite made flesh but as eerily close as you can get. The celluloid Presley introduced his old sidemen and there they were, grey and whisky, but sounding just as they always did. Play it, James. Presley told his legendary guitarist in one marvellous moment during *Heartbreak Hotel*, and Burton, now 59, obliged with a blistering solo.

Whether this hybrid form qualifies as genuine live entertainment is another mat-

ter. **Mercury Rev/**
Shack
Astoria, WC2

As the band cruised towards the monumental climax of *Opus 40*, a juddering lightshow left visual drama to a show which plainly marked out Mercury Rev as one of rock's new heavyweights.

Shack, who played earlier, have languished on the margins of British pop for many years. Led by singer Michael Head, formerly of Liverpudlian under-achievers the Pale Fountains, they played pop-literate songs involving pleasantly chiming electric and acoustic guitars and a sound sense of melodic purpose. But, like so many of the bands granted the unaccustomed exposure of a Premier Shows gig, they seemed a little out of their depth in a venue of this size.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Live from the grave

Elvis: The Concert
Wembley Arena

The documentary *Elvis — That's The Way It Is*. At the time Presley was in good shape, slim and shockingly handsome. He was also undergoing a musical renaissance with songs such as *In The Ghetto* and *Suspicious Minds*, which gave the first half of the show real punch. The big early hits such as *Hound Dog* and *Love Me Tender*, delivered in cabaret style, were mostly kept for after the interval.

Towards the end Presley told his audience: "Turn the house lights up, I'd like to take a look at you." It was as if he was talking directly to us, and the screen switched to the Wembley crowd — not just a virtual Presley concert but an interactive one, too.

And so are all our yesterdays about to be digitally transformed into the brave new future of live entertainment? The sell-out audience's enthusiasm proved that the market for such unashamed nostalgia is boundless. The hologram Hendrix and the cyber Sinatra will surely be coming to a concert hall near you soon.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Root-and-branch revelations

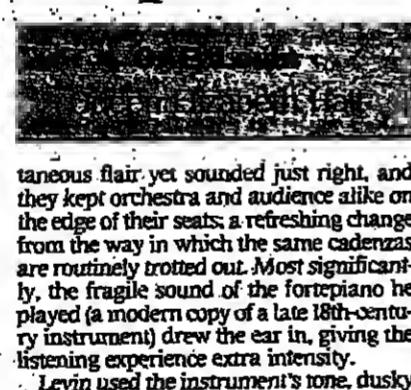
The singing of America is something Michael Tilson Thomas has always taken on with a Whitmanesque zeal. His recent years at San Francisco have seen him commissioning and performing American composers, as well as writing himself.

At the start of their European tour it was a case of West meeting East — from sea to shining sea, as it were — as the San Francisco Symphony in-

roduced itself with Charles Ives's *Three Places in New England*. These idiosyncratic tone poems, with their fearless cross-hatching of metre and texture, immediately put an orchestra and its audience, on their mettle...

The slow march of the black regiment, commemorated in *The Saint-Gaudens in Boston Common*, starts so quietly, with its fragments of figures coming into focus as from a

Sublime high spirits



Robert Levin: sublime high spirits

river in a mesmerising patterning of rhythmic undercurrents and irregular eddies of phrasing. Both here, and as one band collides with another in the central July 4 piece, *Putnam's Camp*, Tilson Thomas seized the momentum behind every shifting rhythm and his orchestra responded, with swiftness of ensemble.

Tilson Thomas is, of course, as Russian in his roots as he is American in his branches, and

lower down and twinkling in the upper register, to bring out details often missed in the scores. He and the orchestra captured all the bittersweet ambiguity of the *Piano Concerto No 24* in C minor, K491: at moments such as the third movement's shy opening, a real sense of mystery hung over the music, keeping the eventual path of the music a surprise. In the 25th Concerto, K503 in C, they found a perfect balance between the music's playfulness and grandeur with both coming together in the lively dance of the finale.

The *Symphony No 39* in E flat, K543, was only slightly less compelling, and perhaps because Levin is more at home behind a keyboard than in front of an orchestra. His conducting may be unconventional, but he found the structure of a work which moves from muted emotions to high spirits. As with the others, this score was illuminated by the OAE's gossamer playing: ironically, the homogenous textures of a modern-instrument performance would have made the music sound much more old-fashioned than it did here.

JOHN ALLISON

Prokofiev provided the evening's blockbuster. This was an epic reading of the Fifth Symphony. Where the music became ever more expansive, the playing, thrillingly, grew still more densely concentrated in its energies.

The strings were never tempted by opulence; rather, their bright, ripe sound articulated the music's high fever; and in the elegiac slow movement tuned into the plangency of this orchestra's miraculously blended woodwind. The sardonic scherzo and the desperation behind the apparent high spirits of the finale could

be a powerful punch

happily have bitten with sharper teeth. Tilson Thomas preferred to pack punches rather than to conjure terror; but this was a performance of superbly sustained power.

The evening's solo showpiece was Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto played by Gil Shaham. A robust but somewhat unstable and erratic performance was redeemed by Shaham's first-movement cadenza and his slow movement, both of them unusually searching in their thoughtful shaping of suspense and of song.

HILARY FINCH

See New Displays, sponsored by BP.



Beansprouts, noticed after a visit to the Tate. Minds open from 10am.

Tate Gallery

From the Heart may be the title of the South Bank's celebration of Mozart, but there can also be no better way of describing the playing in this latest instalment of the series. A display of infectious high spirits from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment proved that there are still musicians out there who love their jobs: reassuring at a time when the woes of orchestral life are being revealed even on television.

But then the music was sublime: three late works of Mozart. It inspired the players to listen to one another in what amounted to large-scale chamber music-making. In the two piano concertos we heard — both dating from 1786, the Figaro year — the orchestra gathered round the soloist, Robert Levin, whose position centre-stage and facing out helped to increase the communicativeness of the performance.

In keeping with the practice of Mozart's day, Levin also directed from the keyboard. As one of the foremost authorities on Classical style, his instinctive grasp of the idiom is matched by very few pianists today. His improvised cadenzas had spon-

taneous flair, yet sounded just right, and they kept orchestra and audience alike on the edge of their seats; a refreshing change from the way in which the same cadenzas are routinely trotted out. Most significantly, the fragile sound of the forte piano he played (a modern copy of a late 18th-century instrument) drew the ear in, giving the listening experience extra intensity.

Levin used the instrument's tone, dusky

and lyrical, to great effect.

JOHN ALLISON

An evening to raise the spirits' Sunday Telegraph

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HILARY FINCH

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Shaken and stirred by Paddy

Ashdown's announcement leaves

Labour protesting too much

Tony Blair has spent the month since Peter Mandelson's resignation claiming that nothing has really changed. New Labour modernisation is continuing as before. Similarly, we are now told, Paddy Ashdown's departure will not affect Labour-Liberal Democrat co-operation and their aim of making the Centre Left the dominant force in British politics. But the very frequency and force with which such claims are made reveals how unsure the Blairites now are.

There is a temptation to link the two departures and to regard Mr Ashdown as the fourth victim of the Mandelson affair. That is too glib. The story began with the report in late October of the Jenkins Commission on Electoral Reform. While Mr Blair welcomed its broad thrust, his response was cooler than leading Liberal Democrats expected. This partly reflected the hostility of many in the Cabinet and on the Labour back-benches. An early referendum on electoral reform has therefore looked increasingly unlikely. The subsequent muted extension of Labour-Lib Dem co-operation was badly received in both parties and put Mr Ashdown on to the defensive.

All this happened before Mr Mandelson's resignation. He was the leading Cabinet advocate both of new Labour and of co-operation, and his departure fuelled speculation about a shift away from new Labour.

In particular, there have been announcements on education that have directly challenged failing local education authorities and schools by proposing the involvement of outsiders, including private companies.

Mr Blair has also reaffirmed his political strategy. He reacted to John Prescott's rambles about links with the Lib Dems by initiating an extension of co-operation to European security and defence policies. That was also done in the knowledge of Mr Ashdown's announcement last Wednesday. Despite his earlier decision for family reasons, I still wonder whether, if the Government's response to the Jenkins report had been more positive, and Mr Mandelson's departure had not removed a key ministerial ally, Mr Ashdown might not have been persuaded to stay on longer. Everything would also have looked different if Labour had had a majority of 50 or fewer and Mr Blair had formed a coalition with the Lib Dems.

Downing Street has repeatedly said that co-operation will continue and may even extend to areas such as pensions. No likely successor to Mr Ashdown is going to repudiate his strategy, however sceptical they sound during the leadership contest. Mr Ashdown has talked as if the battle is as good as won and his successor will lead his party into government after the next election. He has certainly taken his party a very long way in the past 11 years, but the future direction is less certain. Many

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'This is a God-forgotten place,' the Russians are fond of saying, and it is sometimes hard to disagree with them

Russia has been famous for many centuries as one of the world's worst offenders as far as almost every kind of human degradation goes. Travellers as far back as the 10th century have described Russians as animals and have been terrified by Russians' inhumanity to Russian. Konrad Bussow, a German merchant living in Moscow, wrote awe-stricken of the horrors of the 1601-04 famine. This period was one of the many in Russian history known as 'the time of trouble', but how troublesome does a time have to be for people to abandon the very features that make them human?

"But I swear by God that in Moscow I saw, with my own eyes, people who rolled in the streets and, like animals, ate grass during the summer and hay during the winter. Some of those who died had hay as well as human excrement in their

mouths. Parents killed, prepared, and cooked many of their children; children did the same with their parents; hosts with visitors; and visitors with hosts," wrote Bussow.

Admittedly things are not quite as bad as this today, but the tabloid press is nonetheless full of tales of barely human deeds, of people who seem to have lost not only their moral values but their very animal instincts.

There are mothers ordering contract killing of their sons, prisoners intentionally infecting each other with tuberculosis and people attempting to sell their unwanted children for dollars. In an experiment with gorillas, some American sadist discovered that if one beats the floor under a mother's feet, she will eventually stand on her child to relieve herself of the pain. Some body appears to be heating the floor under Russia again.

I met a Russian Jeremy Paxman-type person last week who was in a despairing mood about his country. "I mean, almost all animals have it in them to look after their children and to preserve themselves. We seem unable even to manage that," he sighed. Although

thought of as a witty and irreverent character by his viewers, this man uses his humour for a purpose — to prick the pomposity of the politicians he singles out for derision and to highlight the desperate problems of his compatriots. In life, he is serious and genuinely downcast at the state of his motherland.

In some Russian prisons up to two thirds of the inmates suffer from TB. Everybody here knows

about it, heads are shaken, eyes are rolled and foreheads are stroked by exasperated hands. This is all quite bad enough, obviously, but now prisoners have begun selling the disease to each other in order to receive preferential treatment (by what means, exactly, they infect each other, God knows). "Seriously," nodded the charismatic television presenter who had brought it up, "it's awful, but it's true. We did a

piece about it." The situation in Russian prisons is so Dickensian that the idea of trying to get on top of the basic problem of trying to survive even in perfect health is unthinkable. "This is a god-forgotten place," Russians are fond

of saying, and it is sometimes hard to disagree.

Last week yet another heart-wrenching tale of economic hardship in a moral vacuum popped up — that of a young couple apprehended in the process of selling a baby boy for \$6,500.

Yuliya Melikhova, 22, and her boyfriend had actually gone all the way from Moscow to Vladimir to collect Melikhova's baby son from the grindingly depressing orphanage in which she had placed him at birth. She feigned a change of heart and love for her the baby and he spent a few days with his mother before she brought him to Moscow, where a 38-year-old male buyer, and thankfully the police, awaited him.

The sale and attempted sale of babies is by no means rare in Russia, and little Roman, Melikhova's son, is now a resident of Moscow Children's Home No. 6

where he is the third nearly-solid baby taken in over the past year.

In Russia's nightmarish orphanages, which house more than 200,000 children, more than 90 per cent of children have one or both parents living.

People who voluntarily give up their own children to institutions are said that an estimated one million Russian children prefer to live on the streets.

Westerners like to blame this country's ills on Communism, but Captain Richard Chancellor attests to the fact that Russia and her people have had it bad much longer than that. In 1558, having arrived in Russia by accident, Chancellor made his way to Ivan the Terrible's Moscow. Afterwards he wrote: "In my opinion there are no such people under the sun for their hardness of living." Nothing has changed.

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Prime sauce

FIRST we have Jeremy Clarkson as Tory transport spokesman; now a cookery presenter is advising the Government on the arts. Loyd Grossman, who drawls affectingly on *MasterChef*, *Through the Keyhole* and other television epics, will sit on a new Design Group examining the future of libraries and museums. The move follows news that Clarkson will be hired to rail about the Government's roads policies. Grossman will help Chris Smith, Culture Secretary, to "promote wider access" to archives and collections. Smith must have been attracted by Grossman's work advertising pasta sauce.

• YOKO ONO has been making peace, not war, with the Lenonns. Inga Pedersen, adopted out of Lennon's family shortly after her birth, was omitted from the singer's will. Now Yoko — who has a bracing relationship with most of his clan — is keeping Inga sweet by sending her food hampers.

Boot camp

GAZZA could be going up to university. Johan Cruyff, the former Dutch international footballer, is setting up a college for ageing sports stars, designed to guide them away from the "George Best retirement route". Cruyff (pictured left) wants to help them over the "black hole" which opens when



they run out of puff. His Netherlands centre will offer courses in marketing, management and sports journalism, and Gascoigne, 31 (right), is an ideal fresher. Says my source at the university: "It will keep him out of trouble — if he avoids the student bar."

• Grandee back-scratching. Lord Goodman and Lord Kissin, the moustachioed boudoir, took care of each other. Goodman, the late political fixer accused of plundering Viscount Portman's fortune, helped Kissin to fend off a takeover bid for his merchant bank in the late Eighties. Kissin returned the favour by paying the rent on his Portman Place flat until Goodman's death in 1995.

Sit Vac

OUR most prominent female barrister is fighting the Foreign Office for money. Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws chairs the British Council, and wants to award a fat-cat salary to its next Director-General: the FCO, which gives the council £133 million a year, is resisting. The DG's job has lain vacant since David Drewry resigned in November (Helena slapped him down



after he tried to remove the senior board of management) and she wants to "reward experience" with £120,000 a year. The FCO is wary. Says my mole: "Anything over £100,000 is excessive."

• SNP spinners have an apt spot to slake their thirst. The party's media centre in Edinburgh is next to Fibber Meege's pub: named after "someone who never told the truth and always had a tale".

Lifer

TOPS by the back door. The editor of *Burke's Peacock* applauds Tony Blair for keeping Europe's oldest traceable family in the Lords: Onora O'Neill, the Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, who was recently created a life peer, can trace her lineage back, through the High O'Neills of Ireland, to AD360. The O'Neills are descended from Eochio Mugmeden, King of Tara, gushes Charles Mosley. "It's good to see new Labour giving our older families seats."

JASPER GERARD



Cromwell, where are you?

The Lord Protector left a bloody legacy, but at this time of constitutional ferment we need another man of destiny

On January 30, 1649, King Charles I was beheaded on a platform, just outside the Banqueting House, in Whitehall; on January 21, 1793, King Louis XVI was guillotined in what is now the Place de la Concorde; on July 16, 1918, Tsar Nicholas II was shot in the House of Special Purpose at Ekaterinburg.

The killing of the King was the climax of each of the three great revolutions of modern Europe. Each death had had a long historic resonance: the English Revolution not only influenced the other two, but laid the ideological foundation for the American Declaration of Independence. Like the killing of the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand, on June 28, 1914, in Sarajevo, the execution of Charles I is an event in history we are still living.

Gilbert Burnet, the 17th-century historian who was to become Bishop of Salisbury, was only five years old when the King died; nevertheless, his judgment of the conduct of Charles is the classic expression of a common contemporary view. Burnet was later to give the sermon at the Coronation of William and Mary, after the Revolution of 1688.

The King himself showed a calm and a composed firmness which amazed all people; and that so much the more, because it was not natural to him... it was owing wholly to somewhat within himself that he went through so many indignities without disorder or any sort of affection. Thus, he died greater than he had lived; and showed, which had often been observed of the whole race of the Stewarts, that a man of such true greatness, without disorder or any sort of affection.

His reign, both in peace and war, was a continual succession of errors; so that it did not appear that he had a true judgment of things. He was out of measure set on following his humour, but unreasonably feeble to those whom he trusted, chiefly to the Queen. He had too high a notion of the royal power, and thought that every opposition to it was rebellion. He minded little things too much, and was more concerned in drawing a paper than in fighting a battle.

The great 17th-century issues at the root of the Civil War are not dead; most of them are not even sleeping. When they killed Charles I, the republicans thought and the monarchists feared that that was an

end to the monarchy, that there would never again be a King of England. Most people would have been amazed to learn that the monarchy would be restored and would then survive for 350 years. Yet English republicanism is also still alive. The abolition of the hereditary principle in the House of Lords leaves the monarchy as the only hereditary part of the British constitution. The close link between King and Lords was demonstrated in 1649: the Lords were abolished by Cromwell only five days after the King had been beheaded.

The Civil War was not just an English matter. There were really civil wars, an English one, an Irish one and a Scottish one. They had their own character and at every stage, they interacted. Charles would not have had to call a Parliament in 1640 if the Scots had not defeated him in the Second Bishops' War; they had even occupied Newcastle and Durham. He would not have ended in Cromwell's hand if the Scots had not surrendered him in 1646; they sold him for £400,000. As Charles was King of Scotland, this is a transaction of which Scottish historians are still ashamed. From Stratford's administration in Ireland to Cromwell's genocidal suppression of the Irish revolt, Ireland, like Scotland, was essential to the struggle in England. Both these national issues remain unresolved and ominous in 1999.

If Charles had been prepared to hand over powers to Parliament, he could have saved his life, right down to the last months. He was distressed because he was thought too close to the Roman Catholic European powers: his dominant wife was a French Catholic of Italian descent. The constitutional issues of 1649 included the future of the monarchy.

loyalty is between Europe and Britain, or perhaps between Europe and England; the Eurosceptics say it is a conflict between bureaucracy and democracy. There is also the conflict between the independent nation and any larger allegiance. Cromwell broke Scotland, politically and militarily, and that provided the basis for the Act of Union, 50 years after his death. Yet Scottish independence is again a growing cause. Even more brutally, Cromwell broke Ireland; it was not for 270 years that Irish independence was regained. These national loyalties cannot be eradicated; in the end the grass grows through the concrete.

When politicians have to deal with these explosive forces, which decide the future of nations and dwarf the ordinary scale of political life, a particular kind of leader is likely to emerge, someone with an immense appetite for power, a capacity for ruthless action. a

comment@the-times.co.uk

WE'RE THE NEW OLYMPIC MASCOT

WE'RE THE NEW

Prize
Sauce

LET BATTLE BEGIN

Liberal Democrats cannot suspend an election for five months

There will have been many anxious telephone conversations among top Liberal Democrats this weekend, even if silence has been maintained in public. It is a tribute to Paddy Ashdown that there are now seven possible contenders considering a bid to replace him. This is more than the total number of Liberals elected to the House of Commons as recently as 1970. But the manner in which this contest is constructed is far less commendable. The candidates are supposed to make no formal announcement and avoid any personal campaigning until after the results of the elections for the European Parliament are declared in 20 weeks' time. This would be odd in any circumstances. For a party that prides itself on democratic participation it is ridiculous.

The original desire to defer debate is not entirely illogical. The Liberal Democrats are a relatively small organisation and depend upon a limited number of activists. Those resources will be stretched fighting local elections in England, seeking seats in the Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly, all of which will be swiftly won by the European Parliament ballot. The distraction of a full-blown leadership battle could, it is feared, redeploy manpower and energy at the expense of their electoral prospects. It might also prove a divisive struggle that damages the party's image in the country.

There are, though, more persuasive reasons why Liberal Democrats would be wise to end the phoney war and let their contest commence in earnest. The first is one of simple practicality. Every act and word of the prospective candidates will be analysed over the next few months for some wider meaning. It will hardly help Liberal Democrats at the polls if party luminaries are obliged to be deliberately bland in order to suppress speculation. Shadow campaign organisations will inevi-

tably need to be established and it will be impossible for them to function in secret.

There are also positive virtues for the Liberal Democrats in a lively if lengthy leadership engagement. It will provide plentiful publicity for a party which often complains that it is neglected by the media. As the entire rank-and-file is permitted to choose Mr Ashdown's successor, a membership increase on some large scale might be expected. This would have the further advantage of enhancing party coffers. All this should help in the elections.

There is also a wider issue of public interest. The central question facing Liberal Democrats today is their relationship with the Labour Party. Voters are entitled to know when they cast their ballots this spring whether Mr Ashdown's *entente* with Tony Blair will continue much as before, be reduced in intensity or abandoned completely. Some voters will approve of the Ashdown-Blair pact and be inclined to back the party on that basis. Others who voted for Labour in 1997 might sense that it renders support for the Liberal Democrats, in protest at some aspect of government policy since then, redundant.

Unless candidates are allowed to set out their stalls it will be impossible to make any estimate of the direction that the Liberal Democrats may be taking. Should a six-month leadership contest be deemed excessive there is an alternative. If Mr Ashdown's resignation were made effective immediately, the entire race for his crown could be completed in six weeks, ending well before the May elections. A fresh figure rather than a lame duck would take the Liberal Democrats into those forums. The first months of Mr Ashdown's leadership were marred by an embarrassing argument over the name of his new party. It would be unfortunate if the last months of his tenure were scarred by an equally slapstick system for succession.

GREEN MISCHIEF

If Germany wants an end to nuclear power, it must pay the price

Gerhard Schröder's struggle to forge his Red-Green coalition into a coherent German Government has until now been complicated more by the Reds, in the restive person of his left-wing rival Oskar Lafontaine, than by the once tameable Greens. Herr Lafontaine's frankly socialist ambitions have seriously embarrassed a Chancellor anxious to pose as a centrist friendly to business. In the bearpit of the new German politics, Joska Fischer, the Greens' leader, has until now behaved commendably by contrast, repaying Herr Schröder's trust and the award of the Foreign Minister's portfolio by muffling his hostility to Nato and enthusiasm for a United States of Europe in a blanket of consensual discretion. The illusion that all was quiet on the Green front may explain why Herr Schröder should seemingly have sleepwalked into a Green ambush over nuclear power.

The Greens, determined to rid Germany of the nuclear power which produces 35 per cent of its energy, have started with a law banning all recycling of German nuclear waste by January 2000. Because this processing is done not in Germany, but by France's Cogema and by British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), that means cancelling contracts with these companies worth £3 billion and £1.2 billion respectively.

Herr Schröder has little enthusiasm for the Greens' anti-nuclear crusade, and no wonder. Shutting down Germany's 19 nuclear plants, most of which have 40 years of safe life in them, is likely to cost £30 billion and 150,000 jobs. That is why Herr Schröder hopes to phase it over 20 to 40 years, not by 2004 as the Greens demand. Nuclear fuel is unpopular in Germany; but so will be the price to taxpayers of decommissioning. The move is also environmentally unsound; cost-effective alternatives to nuclear energy will

increase the emissions of "greenhouse gases" that Germany is obliged under international treaties to reduce. Germany has no national waste management plan, and its plants cannot build secure storage dumps by next January's deadline. To take back the 3,800 tonnes of waste treated in France, plus 30 tonnes of plutonium fuel, will require 40 convoys trundling across Germany. These are the shipmates that, in opposition, Greens fought pitched battles to stop. Germany could also have to take back 650 tonnes of treated and untreated nuclear waste from BNFL.

These problems are Germany's business; but its decision to end nuclear reprocessing damages French and British interests too. Germany refuses to accept liability for breach of contract. The Green Environment Minister claims that Germany is absolved by the "act of God" of having changed governments and laws. This displays little more respect for legal principles than the slogan "might is right", which Germany of all countries ought to wish buried deeper than the most toxic wastes.

Herr Schröder's claim last week to have read the contracts and found "no cause" for damage claims by companies or governments is unconvincing. Germany's contractual obligations are clear, and onerous. "Sale or return" clauses have been written into the commercial contracts, which are backed by intergovernmental accords which the furious French rightly insist are tantamount to treaties. To hold his coalition together, Herr Schröder may have felt obliged to give way to the Greens. He will pay dearly at home as the consequences become plain. Nor can he escape the international consequences. Backing their industries, Britain and France should insist on exacting every penny that is due.

666 AND ALL THAT

Most people will prefer the Devil they know

"If I were a painter," mused William Congreve, "I would draw the Devil as an idiot, a driveller with a bib and bell." Such illustrations will no longer find favour in the Roman Catholic Church. Just days after the Vatican declared that God is "not to be imagined as an old man with a flowing beard", Rome believes it is now time to remodel the Devil's image. Out goes all references to Beelzebub, the Foul Spirit, the Accursed Dragon or the Master of Deceit. In comes a more subtle and sophisticated definition, which recognises that the force of evil lurks in all individuals.

Under various names — the fallen angel, the Lord of Flies, the Lord of Dung, Lucifer — the Devil has been trying to tempt man to reject the way of life and redemption and accept the way of death and destruction. In Genesis, Satan is portrayed as the serpent, tempter of mankind. St Peter warned the Christians of "a roaring lion", while Martin Luther cautioned people to beware of "a silly sheep". At other times in his diabolical career, Old Harry has been appeared as a woodpecker, a blackbird, a leopard and a series of numerals — the most popular being Hell's emergency number, 666. Yet the attributes of the Devil most people recognise were appropriated from Greek gods. Satan was given Pan's

horns, cloven hoofs, tail and hairy lower body, and Poseidon's trident, and took over Hades' role as Prince of Darkness.

There was good reason to give evil a face. People found it easier to understand and accept an idea when it was manifested in either an animal or human form, rather than expressed as a vague, abstract notion. Hieronymus Bosch's painting of a monster with flaming hair who gobble up human beings, or Signorelli's grey-skinned creature with a single horn squashing a woman, have a simple aim: to terrify people about the Devil's intentions.

Attempts to reduce the Archfiend to a modern medical concept of "psychological disturbance" are destined to fail. At the end of the 20th century, Lucifer is engrained in popular culture. There is the Devil's dozen, snuffbox, nostrils, four-poster, candlestick, shoestrings and punchbowl. At the last election, Demon Eyes peered down from Conservative election posters, trying to scare voters away from the Prince of Darkness's party. The forces of good are still fighting the powers of evil — Darth Vader, Blotfeld, the Joker, none of whom is the "subtle" definition of evil that Rome now endorses. The Vatican may try to give evil a make-over, but most people will prefer the Devil they know.

Caution needed in witness protection

From Mr Jon Holbrook

Sir, The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill, now in its committee stage in the Lords, proposes to protect "vulnerable and intimidated witnesses". Much of the clamour for litigation on this issue stems from Julia Mason's lengthy cross-examination by the man who raped her, Ralston Edwards (reports and leading article, August 23, 1998).

In the two and a half years since that celebrated trial hardly any instances of witness intimidation have reached a victim-friendly media. By contrast, the media have been full of cases where witnesses have either lied or been mistaken. Today you report the conviction of a jealous woman who made false rape allegations against six men, and Jonathan Aitken's admission of perjury.

In her letter of January 18, supporting the Bill, Helen Reeves (Director of Victim Support) does not complain about actual witness intimidation. Rather, she refers to witnesses' "perceptions" of the court process. Honest witnesses have little to fear in discharging their public duty by going to court.

The Lords could help get this message across if they threw out those parts of the Bill that seek to protect vulnerable witnesses. Fears grow if they are fed; they shrink if they are challenged.

Yours faithfully,
JON HOLBROOK,
Freedom & Law,
Worldwide Centre,
14 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PF.
jholman@ednet.co.uk
January 20.

From Mr R. W. Farrington, JP

Sir, Ms Helen Reeves would seem to believe that when a woman says she has been raped there should be a presumption that she is telling the truth, which may be tantamount to presuming the guilt of the "man charged".

All the special arrangements she advocates are open to a glaring objection, that they will suggest to a jury that the alleged victim has indeed suffered what it is claimed she has suffered. But it is just this that the jury has to decide.

Are we content to slip towards a position in which men charged with rape have to prove their *innocence*?

Yours truly,
ROGER FARRINGTON,
73 Marsham Court,
Marsham Street, SW1P 4LA.
January 18.

Millennium flights

From Mr Maurice Fitzpatrick

Sir, Your leader of January 16, "In the millennium hot seat", applauds the insistence by the Chinese Government that senior personnel of the state airline should book themselves on flights straddling the end of the millennium, as an incentive to protect their planes against crashing as a result of the millennium bug (see also letter, January 20). You suggest that Western airlines might do the same.

Such a drastic measure is unlikely to prove necessary since I suspect that few Western airlines will be putting planes in the sky over that period. Even if they were prepared to put passengers' lives at risk (which they are not), such flights would effectively be bereft of full insurance cover.

Some airline insurance companies have already made it clear that their cover will exclude the most common claims, such as the loss of baggage, arising from the consequential effects of the bug (report, December 28, 1998). Their justification is entirely logical: insurance covers unforeseeable risks, of which the bug is not one.

Unless these problems can be solved, it seems likely that many aircraft will be grounded for a period of unknown length, straddling the arrival of the new millennium. Airlines might like to clarify their bookings policy during that period.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK.
Head of Economics,
Chantrey Vellacott DFK,
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square, WC1B 5LF.
January 21.

Legal aid reforms

From the Lord Chancellor

Sir, The President of the Law Society ("Cash limit will affect quality of legal aid", Law, January 19) expresses fears that civil legal aid reforms will result in an unacceptable restriction in public choice of legal aid solicitors. Such fears are unfounded.

Today any solicitor, whether he has the expertise or not, can run a case on legal aid from beginning to end. The point of my reforms is to give people on legal aid a choice from among about 3,000 quality-assured firms. That compares with the 4,987 offices today which do 92 per cent of legal aid work in value, about 40 per cent of which are not quality-assured.

I would sooner have legal aid with an assurance of quality than a slightly wider choice without.

Yours sincerely,
IRVINE OF LAIRG,
House of Lords.
January 21.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Practice and theory for nursing

From the Chair of the Royal College of Nursing Council

Sir, In his argument for a separate college of practical nursing (letter, January 19; see also letters, January 12, Dr Max Gammon criticises "the heavily academic bias" of current nursing education. In fact, 90 per cent of student nurses study for a higher education diploma and split their time equally between practice and theory. In pre-diploma days the divide was 60 per cent practice, 40 per cent theory.

The introduction of the diploma saw no increase in minimum entry requirements. Increasingly people enter nursing education with vocational qualifications NVQ/SVQ level 3 or GNVQ advanced, both equivalent to five GCSEs. Many mature students require no formal qualifications.

The diploma was introduced ten years ago because of high dropout rates from nurse training. It was also prompted by the need for nursing education to reflect changes in healthcare. Today over a quarter of nurses work in the community and, given the drive towards primary care, that proportion is likely to increase.

Hospitals are also changing with patients staying for much shorter periods and therefore demanding a higher intensity of specialised nursing care. Nurses in my own field of daycare services need a breadth of knowledge to enable them to practise both in hospitals and the community.

Difficulties exist with the current system, of course. The RCN wants better support for students when they are on placements in hospitals or in the community. Steps must also be taken to ensure that nursing students have acquired all the necessary skills on completion of their course. But simply to call for a return to the old days is unhelpful.

Yours etc.
PATRICK JENKIN,
GERARD VAUGHAN,
28 Ponsonby Terrace, SW1P 4QA.
January 20.

labour. Their academic education was patchy and too few went on to gain degree or degree-equivalent qualifications.

Today's picture is very different, mainly because the needs of the NHS have changed. Far more emphasis is now given to primary care; in 1977 there were only 1,500 nurses working in GPs' surgeries; by 1996 the figure had risen to 8,000. So of course there is more training in the community and less in hospitals.

For those who work in hospitals, shorter patient stays mean more pressure on staff and there has been a steady call for more clinical responsibility to be given to nurses, leaving doctors free to concentrate on the most seriously ill patients.

Project 2000 has therefore tilted the balance towards more education on academic subjects with less time for learning practical skills. Yet this must not be exaggerated: the balance today is about 50:50 compared with 60 (practical) 40 (theory) pre-Project 2000.

In the light of this we view with some dismay the suggestion by the Secretary of State for Health (report, January 16) that the clock should be put back. This seems to have surfaced in the wake of recent winter pressures on the service, with no regard to the review of nurse education led by the RCN Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, due to report in the autumn. Nurse education is too important for knee-jerk reactions.

Yours etc.
PATRICK JENKIN,
GERARD VAUGHAN,
28 Ponsonby Terrace, SW1P 4QA.
January 20.

Sentenced soldiers continue to serve

From Mrs Jean McBride

Sir, On Friday January 15 you carried a report on a former British soldier, Clive Sutton, who was discharged from the Army following a court case which found that he had killed two pedestrians while drunk-driving. In 1993 he was sentenced to four years' jail.

On September 4, 1992, my son, 18-year-old Peter McBride, was shot dead by two soldiers, Scots Guards Mark Wright and James Fisher. They were sentenced to life imprisonment by a Belfast court but were granted early release in September 1998. Despite the murder convictions they were not discharged from the Army and remain serving soldiers.

For some time I have sought information from the Minister of State for the Armed Forces as to why two men convicted in a court of law of murder have been allowed to rejoin their regiment. The minister has yet to give a proper explanation to my family.

A soldier convicted of a drunk-driving incident involving loss of life is discharged. Two soldiers convicted of murder are allowed to continue serving in their regiment. Some lives are clearly worth less than others, despite the judgment of a court of law.

Yours,
JEAN MCBRIDE,
Flat 5b, Maeve House,
Belfast BT15 2EU.
January 20.

Orchestra finances

From Mr Raymond Gubbay

Sir, It is good to note that the Association of British Orchestras (ABO) has finally woken up to what many of us have known for years, that Covent Garden's ever-increasing Arts Council grant has been gained at the expense of orchestras and other performing arts organisations, many of whose finances are, as you report ("Orchestra flail 'unfair' Arts Council", Arts, January 19), in a highly parlous state.

A period of rehabilitation normally follows explosion of past misdeeds. Yet Covent Garden has been allowed to get away with huge accumulated losses for which no public accountability has ever been made. Not only has the Arts Council failed to make any public statement about what has happened to the £20 million additional grant given to the Royal Opera House to tide it over the two-year closure period; it has given the ROH even more public money, although the Opera House has cancelled most of its current year's work.

ABO members and others can only watch in horror whilst Covent Garden's avarice continues to cause damage to other rather more modest and better-deserving recipients of government arts funding. Perhaps the orchestras should consider cancelling most of their current seasons, asking their music directors to threaten resignation and encouraging some of their leading players to move *en masse* to Japan. Similar tactics seem to have worked out well for Covent Garden.

Yours faithfully:
RAYMOND GUBBAY,
Raymond Gubbay Limited,
Knight House,
29-31 East Barnet Road,
New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN4 8RN.
January 19.

Chambers wit

From Mrs Janet Welford

Sir, I wonder if any of your readers could tell me whether the entry in Chambers (Jewels, January 12, 18, 19 and 22) under "taghairm" is a joke or is this normal behaviour for people in the Highlands?

Taghairm n. (in the Scottish Highlands) division; esp. inspiration sought by lying in a bullock's hide behind a waterfall.

Yours faithfully,
JANET WELFORD,
10 Arreton Close, Leicester LE3 2PP.
January 24.

From Dr Adrian Seville

Sir, What is not in Chambers may also amuse.

In the 1960s, the dictionary had not caught up with "miniskirts". The celebrated crossword compiler Ximenes (D. S. Macnutt) therefore clued the word thus:

They should not be looked up in chambers!

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN SEVILLE,
Tudeley House, Royal Parade,
Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6NW.
January 22.

Liquid intake

From Mr James Ashley Cooper

Sir, My mother had a great zest for life and much enjoyed giving and going to parties right up to the end of her 94-year life.

OBITUARIES

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET LORD LEWIN

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, KG, GCB, LVO, DSC, Chief of the Defence Staff, 1979-82, died on January 23 aged 78. He was born on November 19, 1920.

As Chief of the Defence Staff in 1982, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin was a vital professional adviser at the daily meetings of Margaret Thatcher's War Cabinet during the series of military operations that resulted in the recovery of the Falkland Islands after the Argentine invasion. His greatest contributions were his clarity of thought, which helped the politicians to formulate their objectives, and his realism. Because he had seen much action at sea in the Second World War, he was a steady influence when the all-too-frequent bad news from the battle zone rattled the less-experienced members of the War Cabinet.

The state of affairs at that time was that for many years British defence policy had forsaken the intention — and increasingly the capability — to conduct an opposed amphibious landing on enemy-held territory without the support of allies. Recovery of the Falklands would confront all these things at a range of 8,000 miles from home bases, in worsening seasonal weather, opposed by a modern land-based air force, and with a task force that lacked an airborne early-warning radar system. These factors were compounded by a series of complex political issues which had to be resolved successfully by the War Cabinet if the United Kingdom was to retain the support of the Americans — already bruised in their South American relations — and even more importantly, the authority conferred by United Nations resolutions against

a breach of international order.

Throughout the twists and turns of these processes, Lewin was able to secure centralised operational control over the conduct of the military campaign and to operate a surprisingly short and uncomplicated link from the Cabinet through the tri-Service headquarters at Northwood to the task force. His profound grasp of the tactical and technical issues enabled him to lobby hard for licence to use the task force to the greatest effect. Supported by the ministerial experienced Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, he was able auditorily to advocate the specific rules of engagement which, while allowing for the political niceties, would enable the task force to protect itself and to carry out its mission.

Despite worries about the diversion of resources, Lewin proposed an early retaking of South Georgia as a contribution to graduated pressure on the Argentine junta as well as a useful test of naval competence. His iron nerves were never needed as much as when this initial operation, meeting extreme weather, nearly came to grief among the waters and glaciers of Grytviken. The historical evidence on the rest of the campaign, including Lewin's post-conflict appearances before Houses of Commons select committees, attests to his wise judgment of such vexed questions as the contradictory Total Exclusion Zone and the sinking of the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano*.

Terence Thornton Lewin entered the Royal Navy in 1939 from the Judd School at Tonbridge. His first wartime seagoing appointment was as a midshipman in the battleship *Valiant* where he experienced several of the early battles of the Mediterranean campaign. In

January 1942 he joined the Tribal class destroyer *Ashanti* as the gunnery officer and during the next two years as a sub-lieutenant and young lieutenant was mentioned in despatches three times and awarded a DSC.

In early 1942 *Ashanti* accompanied two Arctic convoys to Murmansk before being diverted to the Mediterranean in August of that year to take part in Operation Pedestal, the hardest-fought of the series of convoys to Malta. Back in the Arctic in September, *Ashanti* was part of a large 'fighting escort' of 10 destroyers protecting convoys PQ18 and OP14 to and from Murmansk. OP14 contained ships that had survived the tragic scattering and destruction of the previous PQ17 convoy. Of the 40 ships that set out 13 were sunk by U-boats and mated dive-bombers. The destroyer *Somali* was damaged and taken in tow by *Ashanti* but after a long, slow and hazardous voyage a violent storm caused *Somali* suddenly to break up and sink with the loss of 35 of her 80 remaining crew.

During 1943 and up to the D-Day landings in June 1944, *Ashanti* distinguished herself in a number of brisk night actions against German convoys and their escort in the English Channel. As part of the western covering force during the D-Day campaign, *Ashanti* sank with torpedoes one of four German destroyers which had sailed out from Brest to try to disrupt the invasion.

After the war Lewin held a number of seagoing posts. He passed the Staff Course and then commanded the destroyer *Coruna* with distinction. He was always a keen sportsman and represented the Royal Navy at athletics and rugby.

He was appointed LVO after a



Lewin: vital role during the Falklands conflict of 1982

tour as second-in-command of the Royal Yacht *Britannia*.

In the rank of captain, he commanded the Dartmouth Training Squadron and subsequently the aircraft carrier *Hermes* in the Indian Ocean at the time of the 1967 Arab-Israeli Six-Day War and the 1968

Promoted rear-admiral in 1968, he was successively appointed Assistant Chief of Naval Staff

(Policy), Second-in-Command Far East Fleet and Vice-Chief of Naval Staff before becoming, in 1973, C-in-C Fleet, in 1975 C-in-C Naval Home Command and then, in 1977, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff. He was appointed KCB in 1973 and GCB in 1976.

The perennial postwar difficulty of matching defence resources to commitments was particularly severe during Lewin's tenure as First Sea Lord, but he was able to initiate a series of 'group deployments', intending, as he put it, 'to preserve worldwide expertise among our officers and men and the chance to exercise with non-Nato navies, rather than become mesmerised by the Eastern Atlantic'. His greatest achievement was to preserve this worldwide capability in spite of a political climate that called for withdrawal from overseas commitments and a reduction to what were seen as Nato essentials.

As Chief of Defence Staff Lewin was heavily involved with the decision to replace the Polaris-based strategic deterrent with the Trident missile system.

His tri-Service impartiality was much tested by the review, instituted by the Secretary of State for Defence, John Nott, in 1981, which again tried to match a realistic defence programme to the budget.

The review's most contentious

strategic proposal was to inflict wholesale reductions on the Navy's surface fleet.

These decisions were fortunately reversed by the Falklands War and the realisation that navies have an inherent flexibility which may not be revealed by accountants' scenario-based analysis.

Nevertheless, Lewin's experiences led him to strengthen the position of the Chief of Defence Staff, who thereafter would not be constitutionally bound to offer

ministers the consensus opinion of the three Service chiefs, but give his own defence advice, as had been done during the Falklands conflict.

People who worked for and with Terry Lewin uniformly remarked on his acute intellect, his concentration on essentials and his impeccable judgment, but he was also widely known for his great courtesy towards all ranks. He never, as it is all too easy to do in moments of great stress, lost his temper or his self-control. Another great strength was that he always accorded respect and attention to the views of others, irrespective of their ultimate value.

In retirement Lewin brought these qualities to bear on a number of charitable and other works. His great enthusiasm was for the naval history of the 18th century and he was an acknowledged authority on the achievements of Captain James Cook in particular. As a trustee of the National Maritime Museum and subsequently as chairman from 1987, Lewin put his weight behind a successful £12 million English Heritage lottery bid and was instrumental in driving forward a radical modernisation programme affecting not only the use and repair of the buildings but the mounting of major exhibitions all over the world.

Among his other activities, he was president of the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Benevolent Society, the George Cross Island Association and a council member of the White Ensign Association. He was an Elder Brother of Trinity House from 1973.

Lewin was created a life peer 1982 and appointed KG in 1983.

He is survived by his wife Jane Branch-Evans, whom he married in 1944 when she was serving in the Wrens, and by their two sons and daughter.

LESLIE FRENCH



Leslie French, actor and director, died on January 21, aged 94. He was born on April 23, 1904.

AMONG audiences who were fortunate enough to see him over a long stage career which had begun in the Twenties and carried on well into the Seventies, not to speak of the television work he did in the Eighties, Leslie French will be remembered especially for three Shakespearean performances: *Puck*, *Ariel* and *Feste*. These at the apogee of his career were considered to be definitive. In particular, his *Ariel* was, when first seen in 1922, daring in the extreme in its near-nakedness (which drew protest from some quarters) and in the fact that it was the first time a man had played the part since Victorian times. It was a performance which, in 1931, inspired Eric Gill to create his sculpture of Prospero and *Ariel* for the façade of the newly opened Broadcasting House in Portland Place, a work in which the undraped contours of *Ariel* were modelled on those of the youthful French.

Critics also praised him for his performance as the Attendant Spirit in Milton's *Comus*.

It was a part he played often during the 1920s, since Milton's masque, directed by Robert Atkins, was generally to be found in the repertoire of the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre.

Expert as singer and dancer, French trained himself in the Ben Greet touring companies where, from extreme youth, he showed an innate sense of poetry and a quick response to Shakespeare. He was a small, fine, often impish figure with an uncommon nimbleness of wit and movement. Alas, after leaving Greet he often had to waste these qualities on routine musical comedy.

His high moment came during an engagement for a single Old Vic production in the winter of 1929. Then, in partnership with John Gielgud, Oberon, he appeared as a Puck of irresistible mooncast mischief, remembered for his absolute fidelity to Shakespeare and for the

spoli-child intonation of 'I go; I go; look how I go!' when ordered to be 'faster than the wind'. Later he had a complete Vic season, and soon afterwards began the Regent's Park period that for several seasons exercised all his gifts to their full. Harcourt Williams wrote of his *Puck*: 'He put the Vic audiences for ever in his pocket.'

Leslie French was born at Bromley, Kent. He was a boy singer from the age of ten before joining Ben Greet in 1918 at the age of 14 and remaining with the company for six years. Later, with a sound grounding of Shakespeare behind him, he did some musicals, and was particularly fond of playing Astic, a part he always recalled affectionately, in a musical version of *The Beggar's Opera* (Duke of York's 1927).

But it was during his eight months at the Old Vic in 1930-31 that he had a real chance to use his fun, vocal clarity, and when needed, his pathos and other-worldliness.

He was, principally, *Feste* (at the opening of Sadler's Wells) and *Ariel*, *Eros in Antony and Cleopatra*, and — playing to John Gielgud — the Fool in *King Lear*.

After leaving the Old Vic French played in A. P. Herbert's opera, *Derby Day*, at the Lyric, Hammersmith, and

York, which was done at the

Rodney Ackland's *Strange Orchestra* at the St Martin's.

There followed the sequence of half-a-dozen *Regent's Park* summers. As he had done with so many of his Shakespearean roles, he made the part of the Attendant Spirit of *Comus* peculiarly his own, particularly in the way he delivered the last invocation: 'Sabrina fair, listen where thou art sitting, when the glassy, cool, translucent wave.' On other occasions he went back to the Vic (1934) for *Ariel* with Harcourt Williams, acted in a *Cochran* revue, *Home and Beauty*, and as *Swinburne* in a mediocre piece, *Rossetti*, at the Arts.

Twice in the prewar period he directed for the Oxford Union Dramatic Society, *Much Ado About Nothing* (1938) and *The Merchant of Venice* (1939).

During the Second World War French joined the International Ballet Company, appearing in the title-role and directing *Everyman* and, at the Lyric, playing *Feste* in a ballet of *Twelfth Night*. In 1946 he directed a *Comus* with himself as the Attendant Spirit. He would have three further Open Air seasons (1951, 1952, and 1958) and a performance some distance from Shakespeare, in the character of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, in a *chronicle*, *Derby Day*, at the Lyric, Hammersmith, and

York, which was done at the

Royal Court in 1955, and sought earnestly to exonerate Richard III.

Much of his later career he occupied in directing Shakespeare at various places, notably in South Africa where he had a considerable impact on the theatre through his founding of Maynardville, an open-air theatre in Cape Town, in the 1950s. This arose from an invitation he received from two South African actresses, Celia Simeone and René Ahrens, who asked him to go there and do an outdoor *The Taming of the Shrew* for them. Shortly before he was due to sail French received a panic telegram from the pair saying: 'Got cold feet, don't come!' Nothing deterred him, he telephoned back: 'Buy a hot-water bottle' and continued with his passage.

There followed a succession of triumphant summers in Cape Town where, besides *Puck*, *Touchstone* and roles normally associated with him, he tackled less likely parts such as *Duncan* and *Slylock*. His production of *The Merchant of Venice* broke all box office records for South Africa at that time and he also directed in the open air at Port Elizabeth, and at theatres in Bloemfontein and Welkom, a small Orange Free State town to the north of Bloemfontein, where he was born. He was in his element in the conspiracies of old Labour's Right.

He was master of every trick in the political trade as his enemies — and he had many — were forced to admit. Even when his left-wing critics seemed to be winning in his favour, he left the Commons at a time of his choosing to take a key trade union post, with his second wife Lin succeeding him as MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme.

JOHN GOLDFING was the largely forgotten sergeant major in Labour's long march back in electoral respectability and power. After the defeats of James Callaghan and Michael Foot, he rallied the right-wing troops in the Commons, recaptured Labour's national executive from the Left, helped to drive the Militant Tendency from the party and was a powerful Kinnock ally in the early attempts at modernisation.

Golding was a short, scrubby man who was happy to receive a newspaper nomination as the worst-dressed MP in the Commons. But while he would have been out of place in today's new Labour salons, he was in his element in the conspiracies of old Labour's Right.

He was master of every trick in the political trade as his enemies — and he had many — were forced to admit. Even when his left-wing critics seemed to be winning in his favour, he left the Commons at a time of his choosing to take a key trade union post, with his second wife Lin succeeding him as MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme.

SOLOMON KAUFMAN will be remembered particularly as the lawyer in two notable cases. In 1962 he acted for Dr Robert Soblen, his spy, and in 1964 he acted for the author Leon Uris.

Soblen was an American citizen convicted of spying for the Russians and sentenced to life imprisonment. He fled to Israel with an invalid passport, only to be arrested in Tel Aviv. Sent back to the United States, he slashed his wrists on the flight over London, forcing the plane to land at Heathrow. There he was refused official permission at immigration, but managed to instruct Kaufman

constituency, he left the Commons at a time of his choosing to take a key trade union post, with his second wife Lin succeeding him as MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme.

John Golding was born in Birmingham, where his father was working as a chief. After primary education he went to Chester Grammar School, which he left at 16 to become a Civil Service clerk. He had joined the Labour Party while at school and he was soon active in the trade union movement.

As a result the Post Office Engineering Union made him a researcher, sent him to the London School of Economics and then appointed him education officer. Although he was sponsored by his union, he failed in several attempts to obtain a seat until a by-election at Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1969. This was caused by the death of Stephen Swinley, regarded by some as a one-time fellow-traveller, but the right-wing Golding had no difficulty in obtaining the nomination in a trade union-dominated selection conference. It was then that he met Linor Lewis, daughter of Ned Edwards, Atticus's Postmaster-General.

He was master of every trick in the political trade as his enemies — and he had many — were forced to admit. Even when his left-wing critics seemed to be winning in his favour, he left the Commons at a time of his choosing to take a key trade union post, with his second wife Lin succeeding him as MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme.

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who was his campaign driver. Both were married with families. Golding since 1958 to Thelma Gwilym. Eleven years later, in 1970, with both marriages dissolved, they were married.

In the Commons Golding



made unusually rapid progress. Almost at once he was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to Eric Varley, the Minister for Technology, and after the Wilson defeat he became an Opposition Whip. Callaghan gave him a ministerial job as Parliamentary Secretary at the Department of Employment, which

was probably the role he most enjoyed.

But he also had great pleasure in his attempts to delay the privatisation of British Telecom, notably with a speech in committee which lasted for eleven hours and 15 minutes — a record which still stands as the rules were changed to prevent any repetition.

In 1986 he left the Commons aged 55, to become general secretary of the new National Communications Union, formed from the merged between British Telecom's clerical and engineering unions. But two years into his five-year contract, a Sunday paper published allegations about his relations with a prostitute. He refused to comment, to avoid embarrassing his wife, but hostile motions were submitted to his annual conference, where he was asked to resign. Golding refused, as stubborn as ever, but eventually took early retirement after an amicable agreement.

He is survived by his second wife, as Lin Golding, is still the MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, and by a son of his previous marriage to Thelma Gwilym. Another son of that marriage predeceased him.

SOLOMON KAUFMAN was born in London and educated at the Grocers' School and at University College London, Montpellier, Bonn and Moscow Universities. He qualified as a solicitor in 1935 and founded Kaufman and Seigal in the late 1930s.

In the 1940s he acted for the provisional Israeli government before the end of the Palestinian Mandate. He worked for the same firm until the late 1960s, when he became a consultant to Sacker and Partners.

Kaufman retired in 1970, and later took a doctorate in Italian neo-classical stage design at Essex University.

He married Jennie Lubin in 1936; she died last July. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

and the leaders also are still at liberty. A man named Wassileff, who accompanied Father Gapon in the procession on Sunday as a representative of a section of the Workmen's Club, was killed, and three of the priest's assistants, named Ussakov, Tikhonoff, and Tsoezmoff, were wounded, the last-mentioned seriously.

Father Gapon is in hiding. Proclamations, the genuineness of which is, however, doubtful, are being issued in his name...

The following official statement is issued today:

"During the day of January 23 there was no collision between the riotous crowd and the troops. The detachments of soldiers had no need to use their arms, as the crowd dispersed on the appearance of the troops.

NEWS

Shaming of Olympic idea

The ruling body of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday recommended that six IOC members be expelled in the biggest scandal in the 104-year history of the Games.

Three other members have already resigned and three more remain under investigation in the £500,000 "votes-for-favours" scandal over Salt Lake City's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Pages 1, 4

Blairs complain over newspaper

The Prime Minister and his wife last night objected to the Press Complaints Commission over a newspaper story about Kathryn, their ten-year-old daughter. The Prime Minister's spokesman said that Tony and Cherie Blair had complained to Lord Wakeham, chairman of the commission.

Page 1

Mowlam demand

Mo Mowlam will today meet the political representatives of Northern Ireland's three main paramilitary groups at Stormont to demand an end to all "punishment beatings".

Pages 1, 6

Race report shelved

The Home Office has shelved a highly sensitive study showing that blacks are far more likely to be criminals than Asians or whites. The study was carried out by a senior Home Office researcher for Jack Straw.

Page 2

Millennium concert

The BBC is organising a £10 million music extravaganza that will surpass Live Aid as the biggest concert ever staged in Britain. It will be a showcase for British musical talent and will mark the millennium.

Page 3

Libel lawyer's bill

The libel lawyer whose name strikes fear into writ recipients is facing a bill of tens of thousands of pounds for legal fees after failing to resolve a dispute with his partners. Peter Carter-Ruck may be forced to arbitration.

Page 5

Chance rescue

The two halves of an 11th-century diptych have been reunited thanks to a chance discovery. The link was discovered when the owner of the left wing sent photographs to an expert.

Page 7

McCartney fights ban on song

■ Sir Paul McCartney has launched a crusade against radio and television stations that have banned the final song by his late wife, Linda, because it contains a swear word. The single, taken from his wife's posthumous solo album, *Wide Prairie*. Sir Paul has taken an advertisement in *The Times* complaining about the censorship.

Page 3



For the first time Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, accepted a helping arm as she walked to St Mary's Church near Sandringham

Prescott alone

John Prescott dismissed the need for further links between Labour and the Liberal Democrats, saying that the party did not need help from anyone else to achieve its manifesto commitments

page 8

Frigate transformed

HMS *Norfolk*, a 4,000-tonne frigate armed with a 4.5-in gun, and a bewildering array of missiles, has been transformed by the arrival of the women officers and ratings, among the first allowed to go to sea since the Royal Navy changed centuries of tradition four years ago.

Page 9

Front divided

The French National Front ruptured yesterday into bitterly antagonistic halves, accompanied by a level of acrimony rare even for Europe's largest extreme right-wing party.

Page 10

Hostage swap

Nine ethnic Albanian separatists were freed by the Serbian authorities over the weekend in a hostage swap that is likely to enraged radicals in the Belgrade Kosovo Liberation Army.

Page 11

Disappointed king

King Hussein of Jordan removed his younger brother, Hassan, as successor to the throne after 34 years because of disappointment at his leadership.

Page 12

McCartney fights ban on song

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Page 3

Mirror tumult: Sir Victor Blank, chairman of Mirror Group, the newspaper publisher, will this week try to oust David Montgomery, chief executive, from the board.

Page 48

Air traffic row: The Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott has clashed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown over plans for a £1 billion sale of the air traffic control service.

Page 45

Energy delays: The Government's Energy White Paper, faces problems following delays to the electricity "pool" reform.

Page 48

Row over a casino: Thistle Hotels is being sued by its rival Stakits over the closure a casino in Middlesbrough.

Page 43

Endangered species: Who pays £10,000 for a day suit? Lisa Armstrong on couture customers who do not get discounts and stay away from the catwalks.

Pages 14, 15

■ **LOTTERY** **CHRISTMAS**

1, 8, 10, 17, 32, 47. Bonus: 2. One ticket holder won £7,888,414.

■ **TOMORROW**

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS

The National Gallery showcases the supremely confident portraits of the 19th-century French painter Ingres.

■ LAW

So who says you're married? Edward Fennel on overseas weddings

Feeling alive: The craze for experiencing sporting thrills is a growing and dangerous one, says Celia Brayfield.

Page 16

Woman power? Arabella Meville, an academic, claims that she has stopped her partner being violent.

Penny Wark reports.

Page 17

Living link: The artist Jean-Marie Toussaint talks about preserving the heritage of his step-great-grandfather, Claude Monet, and the influence of Giverny.

Page 18

From the grave: Elvis Presley may be dead but that didn't deter the thousands of fans who gathered at London's Wembley Arena on Saturday night for the "virtual Elvis" show.

Page 19

East meets West:

The San Francisco Symphony Orchestra launches its European tour at the Barbican with American and Russian music.

Page 19

■ **FOOTBALL**

Manchester United overcame Liverpool in a thrilling FA Cup fourth-round tie and were then given an attractive tie against Fulham in the fifth round.

Page 25, 29

Cricket: Alec Stewart, the England captain, has been reminded that he is responsible for the behaviour of his team after the ill feeling that dominated the match against Sri Lanka in Adelaide.

Page 27

Tennis: Thomas Enqvist ended home interest in the Australian Open with a victory over Mark Philippoussis.

Page 26

Bowls: Alex Marshall, who started the tournament as a 100-1 outsider, won the world indoor singles championship.

Page 26

Athletics: Officials may today reveal the identity of the senior British athlete who has failed a drugs test.

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Racing: Istabraq warmed up for the defence of his Smurfit Champion Hurdle crown.

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Football: Manchester United overcame Liverpool in a thrilling FA Cup fourth-round tie and were then given an attractive tie against Fulham in the fifth round.

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Cricket: Alec Stewart, the England captain, has been reminded that he is responsible for the behaviour of his team after the ill feeling that dominated the match against Sri Lanka in Adelaide.

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Tennis: Thomas Enqvist ended home interest in the Australian Open with a victory over Mark Philippoussis.

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Bowls: Alex Marshall, who started the tournament as a 100-1 outsider, won the world indoor singles championship.

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Athletics: Officials may today reveal the identity of the senior British athlete who has failed a drugs test.

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Preview: Farmer Oliver Watson looks at the future of agriculture (BBC2, 7.30pm). Review: Paul Hogan intrigued by Poliakoff.

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Let battle begin

The first months of Paddy Ashdown's leadership were marred by an embarrassing argument over his new party's name. It would be unfortunate if the last months were scarred by an equally slapstick system for succession.

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Green mischief

To hold his coalition together, Gerhard Schröder may have felt obliged to give way to the Greens' anti-nuclear campaign. He will pay dearly as the consequences become plain.

Page 21

666 and all that

The Vatican may try to give evil a make-over but most people will prefer the Devil they know.

Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The social situation is not revolutionary, or even pre-revolutionary, but these constitutional issues have an energy which can destroy the calculations of rational politics. In the coming years we shall see who can breast this tide. He will need to be much more of a Cromwell than a Charles.

Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Paddy Ashdown's departure will not affect Labour-Liberal Democrat co-operation and their aim of making the centre left the dominant force in British politics. But the frequency with which such claims are made reveals how unsure the Blairites are.

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ANNA BLUNDY

The Russian tabloid press is full of tales of barely human deeds, of people who seem to have lost not only their moral values but their very animal instincts.

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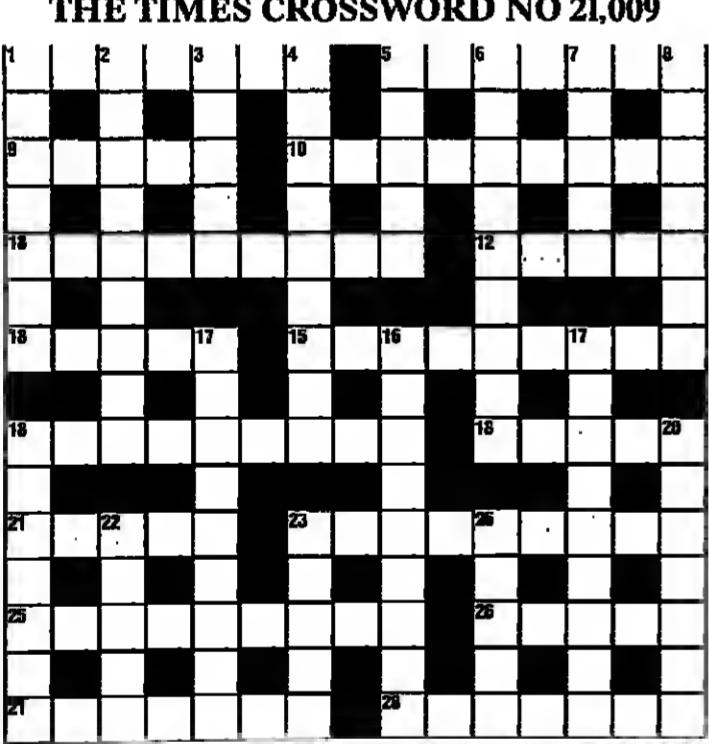
Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Lewin; Leslie French, actor; John Golding, Labour MP; Solomon Kaufman, lawyer.

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Nursing: witness protection; sentenced soldiers; millennium flights; Lord Goodman: legal aid; Chambers wit; smoking.

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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

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Cricket sinks to a new low Down Under

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London Irish finding their feet at last

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Wayermann gives Radcliffe a run for her money

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TIME SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 25 1999

FULHAM LAND PLUM OLD TRAFFORD TIE



Keegan and Ferguson on FA Cup collision course

MANCHESTER United versus Fulham: Alex Ferguson against Kevin Keegan. The fifth round of the FA Cup, drawn yesterday, will make unmissable television — and that is just the managers' pre-match interviews.

As manager of Newcastle United, Keegan was embroiled in some epic personal confrontations with Ferguson, reaching a climax in a famous on-screen outburst against his counterpart. Now the pair can renew old rivalries after a draw that could scarcely have been bettered for romance and intrigue. It will not be long before the psychological bullets are being fired between Craven Cottage and Old Trafford.

How fitting, as well, that the teams involved in the most dramatic games of the weekend should be drawn together. Fulham pulled off the shock of the fourth round when they won 2-0 against Aston Villa on Saturday, their triumph as deserved as it was startling.

Keegan has a five-year plan to lift Fulham from the Nationwide League second division into the FA Carling Premiership and the trip to Old Trafford should provide a good measure of how far his club has travelled already on its extravagantly funded rise.

Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman is the man bank-rolling Fulham in the hope that he will one day be able to mix with the élite and an afternoon in the Old Trafford directors' box may well his appetite even more. But Fulham will come up against the country's leading strikers in Andy

Matt Dickinson looks forward to a renewal of hostilities at the Theatre of Dreams after a dramatic weekend of knockout fare

It and Dwight Yorke and the prospect appears to be a daunting one.

"I shouldn't think we will cope at all," Simon Morgan, one of the Fulham goalscorers at Villa Park, said, "but it will be a great day out. The manager won't let us dream about United and Old Trafford. We have got an important game at home to Oldham on Tuesday and we want to get back on top of the league. That is our priority."

It and we will just want a good time out in Manchester."

They could so easily have been playing Liverpool, though, after a stirring game at Old Trafford yesterday in which United scored in the 88th minute and then injury time to win 2-1. Trailing, to Michael Owen's header after just three minutes, they had to dig deep into their reserves as Yorke and Ole Gunnar Solskjær, with almost his first

touch, finally ended Liverpool's valiant resistance.

"We are not really interested in the FA Cup," Ferguson said sarcastically, in response to those who claim that his side has other priorities. "You can't believe football sometimes, but I believe we deserved what we got because we never gave up. Liverpool defended fantastically and will be gutted, quite rightly, but our sheer determination got us through."

That is the beauty of the FA Cup."

United's relief was palpable. Gary Neville, a Manchester boy who had talked before the match of his dread of defeat to Liverpool, could not contain his delight, whirling around like a madman in front of the visiting supporters after Solskjær's late strike.

The Liverpool players, meanwhile, dropped to the turf, some appearing to depart with tears in their eyes at having allowed victory to slip away so late in the game.

"I told them they have nothing to be ashamed of," Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, said. "I am proud of them."

"Today, we matched Manchester United and a couple of months ago I do not think we would have been capable of a

performance like that. We have to keep improving and moving closer to them in standard, but I know that one day we will beat them."

Bookings for Roy Keane and Paul Scholes ensured that they will be absent against Fulham next month. "It was never dirty," Ferguson said.

"Not like when Jimmy Case, Graeme Souness, Whiteside and Robbie were going at each other a few years back. You had to make sure your mummy was sitting beside you then, because you couldn't watch it alone. Today, they just got stuck in."

Urged on by the ebullient Keegan, Fulham will be doing the same. It would be one of the great upsets in recent years were they to repeat their fear of Saturday, but how Keegan — to borrow one of his own phrases — would love it.

Today, we matched Manchester United and a couple of months ago I do not think we would have been capable of a

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Harkness, the Liverpool defender, collapses to the turf at the final whistle

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Sri Lanka may go home early as bowling action of Muralitharan is put back in the spotlight

Ranatunga deserves censure for shameful behaviour

There were ugly scenes on and off the field at Adelaide on Saturday.

Michael Henderson gives his verdict

THE events at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday, when Sri Lanka beat England by one wicket in the final over of an extraordinary match, were by turns predictable, eventful and shameful. It was a marvellous win for Sri Lanka, but a grim day. Muttiah Muralitharan, their off-spinner, was no-balled for throwing. Arjuna Ranatunga, the abrasive captain, will face a disciplinary hearing in Adelaide tomorrow, charged with misconduct.

Ranatunga, who will appear before Peter van der Merwe, the match referee, was cited for his overall performance on a day that called for leadership and got instead childish tantrums and, unkindly, the "bullying" of umpires.

Unless Van der Merwe comes down strongly against Ranatunga, the International Cricket Council (ICC) will be seen to have ducked the issue. If he suspends him, as he should, for Ranatunga's action in contravention of five of the nine points laid out in the ICC regulations drawn up last year, Sri Lanka may well decide to up sticks and go home.

For all the excitement of a game that produced more than 600 runs and a super-hundred in each innings, it will go down as the day that Muralitharan was again cited for throwing the way that Ranatunga is entitled to match his players off the field and for the unseemly manner in which players on both sides behaved.

It is entirely right that Ranatunga should be cited to account, because his side's gamesmanship corrupted the day and they take their cue from him. Nor did the playing-acting end there. The Sri Lankans wanted the game to be called off between innings because they claimed the light was not good enough — even though it was.

Although nothing in the Eng-

land's private view is that he is a menace. On Saturday, he lectured the umpires to the point of telling Ross Emerson where to stand.

It was predictable that Emerson would no-ball Muralitharan for "chucking". This is the man who called him seven times in a one-day match in Brisbane three years ago. The only surprise was that he felt he needed ten balls from his wicket to stand at square leg to make the call in the final over of the innings.

The events that his decision provoked were also predictable because whispers last week indicated that Ranatunga would take his team off if the bowler was called. In the event, it was not quite a walk-off. The players bailed by the gates at the members' enclosure, where the captain entered into discussions with Van der Merwe and the umpires.

Ranatunga and Ranjith Fernando, the Sri Lanka manager, also rang Colombo to speak to Thilanga Sumathipala, chairman of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL), to ascertain the

Muralitharan, bowling at the end of Emerson, the umpire who no-balled him from square leg, was at the centre of the controversy against England at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday



Muralitharan, bowling at the end of Emerson, the umpire who no-balled him from square leg, was at the centre of the controversy against England at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday

private view of the BCCSL, subsequently held an emergency meeting yesterday and appointed a legal team if necessary to defend Muralitharan.

The game eventually continued 14 minutes later. Ranatunga's behaviour from then on bore no mark of grace. Indeed, Alec Stewart could be heard later in the day on the stump microphone, telling him it was "disgraceful" for the captain of an international side to carry on as he had done. Stewart was not blameless himself, bumping into Mahanama as he walked from behind the stumps at the end of an over.

Given the closeness of the outcome, any one of these mis-

Emerson was culpable because he had surrendered his control earlier

There was also a general feeling of enmity between the players.

The main victim of this poisonous atmosphere was Emerson. Quite apart from the rights and wrongs of calling Muralitharan he presided over a seven-ball over from Gough, failed to refer a run-out to the third umpire when Jayawardene, 33 at the time, was short of the line, signalled a four-hitter to Jayasuriya as six and, by missing Mahanama's obstruction of Gough, he could not uphold England's appeal for dismissal.

Given the closeness of the outcome, any one of these mis-

haps was important. Taken together, they constituted a remarkable sequence of events that indicate why Emerson is not widely regarded as the most competent of arbiters.

Emerson's decision to no-ball Muralitharan brought to a head a matter that has festered since the Sri Lankans arrived in Australia. He was one of three umpires who called Muralitharan for throwing on the last tour. Tony McQuillan, standing at the other end on Saturday, was one of the others. The third man was Darrell Hair, who described Muralitharan's action as "diabolical" in his recent autobiography.

Invisible as he was on Saturday, Hair is directly involved in the reopening of these old wounds. He stood himself down from the panel for this series, even though he is Australia's senior umpire, and the Sri Lankans feel that the other umpires were keen to make a point on his behalf. On Friday, when the teams meet again in Perth, Emerson will get another opportunity.

The Sri Lankans have some grounds for complaint. They

are unhappy that an impression

has been given that some

umpires had referred Murali-

tharan's action to Van der

Merwe after the opening

gamedays of this triangular competition.

The referee has since said that nobody had raised the matter, although his observations will feature in an end-of-tournament report.

Doug Insole, who was on

the ground, sits on the sub-

committee of the International

Cricket Council (ICC) that

deals with bowling actions,

and said that, so far as it were

concerned, Muralitharan's

"basic action" was legitimate.

The word "basic" is important,

for it is felt that Murali-

tharan's off-spinner comes out

right, but his top-spinner is

suspect. When the ICC has

settled through Van der Merwe's

report and sat in judgment,

again, on the off spinner with the freakish action, the word of cricket may be wiser. Or, given the division over his action, perhaps not.

One of the spectators in the

ground on Saturday was an

England attending his first

cricket match. What a day to pick.

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Ranatunga deserves censure for shameful behaviour

There were ugly scenes on and off the field at Adelaide on Saturday.

Michael Henderson gives his verdict



Gatting's spinners take six

THREE England Under-19 spinners set up an encouraging first day on tour in New Zealand for Mike Gatting's team, taking six Auckland Emerging Players' wickets

in a one-day international.

Graham Bridge and

Robert Dawson

undermined the hosts

sufficiently to bowl them

out for 209, before England

reached 66 without loss in

reply by stumps at

Wellington. Richard King

top-scored with 66 for the

Emerging Players, but the

England openers, Ian

Flanagan and Michael

Gough, the captain, quickly

put the hosts' struggles into

context with knocks of 36 and 30 respectively.

Gatting was pleased with

the first showing of his

team: "This is the nucleus

for the World Youth Cup

defence in India in 2000."

He said:

Emerson was culpable because he had surrendered his control earlier

There was also a general feeling of enmity between the players.

The main victim of this

poisonous atmosphere was

Emerson. Quite apart from

the rights and wrongs of calling

Muralitharan he presided over

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Michael Henderson gives his verdict

Relief for West Indies

EAST LONDON (South Africa) won loss: West Indies beat South Africa by 43 runs

CARL HOOPER and Shivnarine Chanderpaul hammered centuries as West Indies levelled the seven-match limited-overs international series against South Africa by winning the second match by 43 runs at Buffalo Park, East London, yesterday.

Chanderpaul made 150 and Hooper 108 as West Indies piled up 292 for nine after being sent in to bat by Hansie Cronje. Amid the high scoring, Sharron Pollock, the South Africa all-rounder, finished with six for 35, his best figures in a one-day international.

South Africa were quickly reduced to 18 for three. Despite half-centuries by Jacques Kallis and Mark Boucher, and a typically robust innings of 46 by Lance Klusener, the home side were never on target to repeat the sensational run chase that enabled them to win the rain-shortened first limited-overs match at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Friday.

Hooper completed a memorable all-round display by dis-

astrous start in which Pollock dismissed Phil Wailes and Nixon McLean, the fast bowler promoted as a pinch-hitter, in the first over.

Their fourth-wicket partnership of 22 was the best for any wicket for the West Indies and Chanderpaul recorded the highest score made against South Africa in a limited-overs international.

Chanderpaul and Hooper, partners for Guyana, surpassed one of the proudest West Indies records when they overhauled the fourth-wicket record of 149 between Clive Lloyd and Rohan Kanhai that provided the foundation for the West Indies triumph against Australia in the 1975 World Cup final at Lord's.

They then beat the West Indies record for any wicket when they went past the 221 scored by Gordon Greenidge and Viv Richards for the second wicket against India in Jambshedpur in 1983-84.

Chanderpaul's 150 bettered the 122 scored by Phil Simmons in Kingston, Jamaica in 1991-92, which had been the highest individual score made against South Africa.

Pakistan batsmen struggle

PAKISTAN suffered an embarrassing batting collapse against India A in Gwalior yesterday on the second day of the opening match of their tour.

After Wasim Akram, the captain, took five wickets to give the touring side a 58-run lead,

Pakistan lost four wickets for eight runs to slide to 23 for five in their second innings. An unbroken partnership between Inzamam-ul-Haq and Salim Malik rescued the situation to take Pakistan into 107 for five at the close for an overall lead of 165.

Salim Malik, the 17-year-old all-rounder, justified his inclusion in India's 14-man squad for the first Test, which starts on Thursday in Madras, with three wickets, while Dauda Ganesha, took the other two wickets to fall.



★★★ World Cup 1999

Time ticks for England

FROM THASFY PETROPOULOS IN HARARE

THAT was finally possible against Mashonaland brought England A victory by 73 runs, an unexpectedly comfortable margin after the tourists had been dismissed for 159. The province's much-vaunted Test-class batting line-up could manage only a meagre 86 runs between them, plainly unable to come to terms with an unpredictable pitch and tight, penetrative bowling from Jason Lewry, Steve Harmison and Graeme Swann, who each took two wickets.

Encouraging though it may have been, the tourists will be only too well aware that two completed one-day matches are hardly ideal preparation for the tougher challenges to come.

Everything we've done so far has unfortunately been one-day cricket, not the preparation for a Test match in ten days.

The limited-overs match



G



Swansea City 0
Derby County 1
By ROB HUGHES

IN 135 years, the FA Cup has seen and heard it all, but down at the Vetch Field on Saturday, the ad hoc grandstand male voice choir was something else — necks the size of Mike Tyson, beer-bellies overhanging the seats in front of them, repertoire more Barny Army than Eisteddfod. "Stand up if you hate Cardiff," was the recurring refrain, although it was when Cyril the Swan came to salute them that they really hit the high notes.

Grown men pouring out their undying affection for a cartoon caricature bird ... strange times indeed on the Gower Coast. And try though the stewards did to persuade them to be seated, it became a cause as lost as the Cup — when the mass of the crowd, from elderly to very young, stood and sang and swayed with the hard core.

For 80 minutes Horacio Angel Carbonari, who cost Derby £2.7 million from Rosario Central,

had defended sometimes close to the end of his tether against rain splashing into his face and Julian Alsop, the target of every aerial Swansea raid. But in the 81st, up for a free kick from Lee Carsley, the slender, angular Argentinian controlled the moving ball on the left side of the Swansea penalty box.

"We needed a moment of magic to finish a dour contest," Jim Smith, the Derby manager, said. "Carbonari gave us that. A couple of dummies, a little chip and he picks out Kevin Harper at the far post. I have to admit, I was concerned we could go the same way as West Ham."

Smith's praise is too short, his description too crisp. What Carbonari did was to demonstrate, against opponents who had given their all and were as much mentally as

physically tired, the value of being comfortable with the ball at both feet. He shimmied to the left, stopped, checked. He shimmied to the right, and stopped again — and, when enough defenders were drawn to him, he guided the ball deftly to Harper, a substitute full of pace and running, to head the solitary goal of a gloomy afternoon.

The Vetch Field choir went quiet. But gloom? There is no likelihood of it lasting with John Hollins around. The Swansea manager, the twelfth to be appointed since the extraordinary reign of John Toshack, Hollins exudes a boyish joy at being back in full-time football after almost a decade away, relish even at the shoestring lower end of the league.

As a Chelsea player, he radiated enthusiasm as a manager, he is essentially a teacher raising the

standards of his players. "The dream has gone," he said on Saturday night. "Now it's back to reality. After three games against Premiership teams, we lost by one goal against Italians. Germans, you name it."

"Of course they're downhearted in the dressing room, because it hurts, but we'll pick them up and see if they can translate the cup form into the league. I was thrilled watching Stuart Roberts, a lad barely out of school, run at international players on the wing. I had two players, Kris O'Leary and Dagnan Lacey, with almost no experience, finding the pace of that match."

"OK, if we want to get up, we'll have to work on things, like seeing if we can add a bit of finesse to big Julian Alsop. We'll be in on Monday, starting to do that."

Derby had one chance and made it count. Swansea lacked the player whose goal finished off West Ham. Martin Thomas was in a Swindon hospital where, on Saturday, he had three operations — on a cartilage and ligament in the knee and a hernia in the stomach, the legacy of persevering through pain for 85 minutes against West Ham.

"He sent a fax," Hollins said, "and the lads wanted to run their hearts out for Martin today." They did that, it was not enough. Saturday was awash with hope from a manager in revival to schoolboys, cygnets from nine years upwards, who want to be swans. The ground was awash with them and the Cup, a passing glory, came and went without harming the dream.

SWANSEA CITY (4-4-2): R. Freeman, S. Jones, A. O'Leary, D. Lacey, J. Cawthron (sub: D. Roberts, 68min) — J. Alsop, S. Water. DERBY COUNTY (3-4-3): M. Poom — S. P. H. Carsley, S. Roberts, J. Laundry, S. Bovell, R. Harper, K. Harper, L. Carsley, A. Dagnan, F. Bento (sub: S. Stock, 68) — D. Burton (sub: K. Hayes, 44), O. Slurridge. Referee: G. Barber.

FA Cup: Keegan's men go to top of class with stirring victory as Collymore sits it out

Fulham come up with the right answers

Aston Villa 0
Fulham 2
By ALYSON RUDD

THERE are some pupils who skip a grade at school because they are bright and need to be challenged. At present, Fulham are just too clever for the Nationwide League second division and, while they sometimes plod with disinterest through it, they usually come top in all the tests.

On Saturday, though, Kevin Keegan, the club's special tutor and so much more than his title of chief operating officer suggests, said: "We were asked different questions today." Fulham relished answering them.

So far this season, Fulham have beaten Southampton home and away in the two cup competitions. Fulham were slightly outclassed by Liverpool, but not embarrassed, and now they have won 2-0 at Villa Park. It is customary to ask, when a first-division side takes on an FA Carling Premiership club, whether that team could cope in the upper echelons. But is rare indeed to be wondering the same about one from the second division.

Against Villa, it was Fulham who entertained, excelled, looked comfortable. Keegan said that Villa supporters approached him to tell him that no other team had played so well at Villa Park this season. Indeed, this was the first time that John Gregory's team had been prevented from scoring at home. Even the dazzling Celta Vigo, who dispatched both Villa and Liverpool from the UEFA Cup, could not stop Stan Collymore snatching a goal.

Ah, Stan. All afternoon, the cry could be heard: "Where is Stan?" Slowly, the truth



Agony and ecstasy: Gregory, left, has a look of disbelief as Hayward's free kick takes a wicked deflection for the second goal at Villa Park to leave Keegan celebrating his club's finest victory for many a year



Dublin injured and refusing to play at all.

Gregory said that Collymore still has a future at the club — "he's under contract" — but he would not be part of his plans for Villa's next match, at St James' Park.

It is possible to view the incident as a defining moment in Collymore's chequered career. He will now either part company with the club he loved as a boy and which was supposed to soothe his tortured soul, or he will face up to the fact that he needs to improve his form before he can count himself on a par with Joachim and Dub-

lin. Against Fulham, even a partially effective Collymore would have been useful. Merson partnered Joachim and displayed some neat touches in the first half, but, by the second period, he was looking tired and clumsy. And is there any sense in playing both Hendrie and Merson, who have similar styles and serve a similar function, when Hendrie is presently the fitter and more effective of the pair?

The importance of a good target man was illustrated by Geoff Horsfield, of Fulham. The former bricklayer was completely in charge whenever he had his back to goal and, try as Ehiogu might, he could not prevent Horsfield laying off the ball. One particularly perceptive reverse pass put Collins free inside the penalty area, but he mistimed his strike.

Although both goals came from set-pieces, Simon Morgan with a ruthless header from a corner by Steve Hayward and Hayward with a free kick that was deflected past Oakes by Pescisolido, there was a confident fluidity to the visitors' attacking play. Keegan promised that they would not employ negative tac-

tics, but Fulham were inventive without being reckless and often left Pescisolido to weave forward without support.

mindful of the danger that Villa pose on the counter-attack.

Today, Philippe Albert begins life on loan at Craven Cottage. He will be lucky to see much first-team action, for the Fulham defence was outstanding. On the rare occasions that Joachim did manage to slip his marker, Maik Taylor, in goal, was alert.

Gregory was adamant that nothing had affected his team's morale before kick-off and be praised the initial

efforts of the Villa side. Surely, he had his back to goal and, try as Ehiogu might, he could not prevent Horsfield laying off the ball. One particularly perceptive reverse pass put Collins free inside the penalty area, but he mistimed his strike.

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tics, but Fulham were inventive without being reckless and often left Pescisolido to weave forward without support.

mindful of the danger that Villa pose on the counter-attack.

Most of the home side's passing was at best, half-hearted and motivation seemed to be a fleeting visitor. Not was the controversy a one-off mishap. Merson had only just made up with his manager after misunderstandings relayed in the media about the player's rehabilitation and a clutch of players have found the transition from no-hoppers to title-chasers problematic, for suddenly, it has made competition for places an issue. Gregory

has shown that patience is rewarded if harnessed to ability, with Joachim the prime example of a player who whined a little, then waited, then scored, then became a certainty.

For all Collymore's transgressions, his comments last week were relatively mild — he simply wants first-team football. The real issue is whether he is good enough to be given it.

Collymore (sub: G. Scott, G. Barry, S. Watson, R. Smales, I. Taylor, L. Hendrie, A. Wright (sub: D. Williams, T. Merson, J. Joachim, P. McAllister, S. Morgan, S. Morgan, S. Morgan, C. Coleman, S. Finnan, W. Colins, P. Bradford, S. Hayward, R. Breslow) — P. McAllister (sub: N. Smith, R. G. Hoskirk). Referee: D. Elton.

Everton fired by sense of injustice

Everton 1
Ipswich Town 0
By KEVIN McCARRA

AS FA Cup engagements go, this was not an affair of flashing swords and daring raids so much as a case of trench warfare. Each sliver of territory was gained ardently and there were heavy losses as Everton edged their way to victory. Casualties included Marco Materazzi, the Everton centre half, who was sent off, and the good humour of the home supporters.

At full-time, a phalanx of stewards surrounded Mike Riley as he left the field. It looked like the entourage that leads a boxer to the ring, but they were actually trying to spare the official a punch-up. At least he antagonises on an equal opportunity basis. In stoppage time, Ipswich Town believed that they had equalised with a drive from Fabian Witini, but Riley had seen a foul on David Unsworth by Richard Naylor in the build-up.

One might be grateful to the referee for turning an inconsequential match into an impassioned conflict, were it not for the fact that he exceeded his brief by doing so. With Everton 1-0 ahead, David Johnson and Materazzi, in the 45th minute, jostled one another while pursuing the ball and the Ipswich forward reacted by pushing his marker to the ground. Riley showed each man a yellow card and the Italian, who had been booked already, was thus dismissed.

Although Ipswich's prospects had improved, Everton turned the incident into a cause and defended as if each tackle was a righteous blow against injustice. The heedless challenges of Unsworth were alarming, particularly when conducted inside his own penalty area, but the indignant resistance

worked. The visitors rarely looked like scoring and George Burley, their manager, may have been recognising his team's inferiority when he made only a mild complaint over the referee's discrimination to award an equaliser.

The most intemperate act of all by the inflamed Unsworth came when he barged Don Hutchinson aside and insisted on attempting a pass himself. Increasingly, Everton are happy to leave distribution to the midfield player. At the start of the season, Hutchinson seemed to be a candidate for redundancy at Goodison Park, but the strength, leadership and discernment that he has shown since brought him the captaincy after Duncan Ferguson was sold. After 38 minutes, he chased to keep the ball in play, before delivering the cross that John Oster headed against the post. It bounced back into the path of Nick Barmby, who recorded his first goal at Goodison since October 1997. It was Hutchinson, too, whose exquisite timing released Michael Branch with ten minutes remaining, but the substitute fired wide.

Had it not been for Michael Ball's mistake before the ordering-off of Materazzi, when he hit the top of the crossbar from six yards, Everton would have won comfortably. They were without eight players and Alex Cleland, after tearing a calf muscle, will be out for six weeks, but the team's spirit has not been diminished. As in the last round, away to Bristol City, Everton were supposed to be vulnerable. On each occasion, they have prevailed. The vultures must look elsewhere for carcasses.

Everton (3-5-2): T. M. M. — G. Burley (sub: J. Oster, D. Johnson, N. Unsworth, M. Ball, A. Cleland, N. Barmby, M. Branch, S. Johnson). Ipswich Town (4-4-2): D. Unsworth (sub: J. Oster, M. Barmby, N. Unsworth, M. Ball, A. Cleland, S. Johnson, M. Witini, A. Dyer, M. Spowden, I. Branson, T. Branch, T. B. M. N. Johnson, J. Cleverley, B. P. P. N. Johnson, R. Naylor, R. Riley, P. Johnson, M. Riley). Referee: A. Wicks.

Newcastle ride the storm

Newcastle United 3
Bradford City 0
By GEORGE CAULKIN

THE charm offensive began over diet cola and canapés in a restaurant adjacent to Durham County Cricket Club at the end of last week. Ruud Gullit and members of the written media brought together to lay out the ground-rules for a more harmonious relationship, to lower the barriers that have built up between Newcastle and its supporters.

Although it was an informal, off-the-record engagement, there was little that Gullit had not discussed in public before. It was imperative that the club should look forward, he said, that the agenda should not be set by a few Luddite malcontents. Besides, he was happy. The future looks good. Everybody smiled, shook hands and said what a worthwhile exercise the evening had been.

In keeping with the spirit of this new concordat that we begin today with the good news from St James' Park. Newcastle, having overcome Bradford City's genuine and tenacious challenge, are for the second consecutive season, in the last 16 of the FA Cup. Even better, they scored three times, with Alan Shearer — far from clinging



to the memory of his career — looking particularly taut and effective. It was Shearer (alleged training ground bust-up), who initiated his side's first goal, provoking a neat flick for Temuri Ketsbaia (unlikely to have his work permit renewed). The Georgian's shot was blocked, but Dietmar Hamann (unsettled on Tyneside, thrown out of a night-club) was well-placed to prod home the rebound.

The Newcastle manager's pep-talk was on Thursday, but this is Monday, time aptly for the drip, drip of malevolence that seeps from the club's every pore to re-form into a torrent. Whether you look, there is unrest: a dressing

room riven at the hinges, an uncertain ownership and a manager unable to weld the disparate parties. It is not all Gullit's fault, but, in certain areas, his reasoning has been questionable. With comments such as "relegation team", the Dutchman has not endeared himself to all his players.

It may seem unfair that the win on Saturday should be placed in this context, but such is the truth. On two occasions, Shearer, who scored a well-worked goal, brushed past his manager without making eye contact, while Ketsbaia's flattering intervention prompted only gloomy introspection. "When I make a mistake, I seem to be out of the team for months," he said. If Stuart McCall had not glanced a header against a post with the score at 1-0, it might have been worse, but, as things stand, the tension at Newcastle is becoming almost intolerable.

Something has to give. Someone has to leave. Kevin Keegan, fresh from Fulham's success, his legend undimmed, is back on Tyneside to pay Peter Beardsley's testimonial in two days. And now for the bad news.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S. Geert — G. O'Brien, L. Chevallier, N. Dabizas, O. Doni — N. Scholz, S. Goss, 46min, O. Hamann, G. Speed, G. Hamann, A. Shearer, T. Ketsbaia (sub: D. Hamann, 46min, G. Speed, G. Hamann, 60min, O. Moller, A. Woodcock, G. Whelan, W. Jacobs — J. Lawrence, S. McCall, G. Whelan, P. Benitez — P. Doherty, P. Dakar).

Leicester City 0
Coventry City 3
By KERTH PRICE

IT IS four years to the day since a referee with a simple flourish of a little red card at a combustible Frenchman, set in motion the chain of events that moved football from the back pages to the front (plus pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12-18 inclusive and a souvenir supplement) and the lead-up to the "dung" on *News at Ten*. At Fibertel Street on Saturday, the anniversary was marked in early contentious circumstances.

Memories were jogged when the PA announcer reminded Leicester City supporters of one of their favourite old chants: "Who needs Cantona, when you've got Oz-mondroyd?" On the pitch, Richard Shaw — once of Crystal Palace and the first person to feel the sharpness of Cantona's studs that momentous night at Selhurst Park — was doing his best to marshal the Coventry City defence. And then Alan Wilkie — yes, the very same official — sent off another, albeit less celebrated, Premiership import, George Boateng. Spooky, or what?

Fortunately, Boateng, Shaw's Dutch team-mate, did not feel compelled to launch himself clogs first into the crowd, although he had some reason to feel a trifle miffed. His dismissal was the pivotal moment in an increasingly bizarre afternoon in which Coventry, according to the scoreline, breezed into the fifth round of the FA Cup. In truth, they were blown there by several powerful gusts of good fortune.

Boateng was off the field of play when he earned the sixth yellow card of a fractious first half, leaving Michael Jordan-like to intercept. Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, tried to lob the ball to Garry Guppy for a quick throw-in. Yellow

Desailly puts end to speculation

MARCEL DESAILLY has given Chelsea a boost before their FA Cup fourth-round tie against Oxford United, at the Manor Ground tonight by saying that he has no intention of leaving the club at the end of the season. Desailly had been quoted as having said that he could spring a "surprise" by quitting Stamford Bridge if Chelsea won the

FA Carling Premiership. However, on his return to London after playing for France against Oxford United, the defender insisted that his comments had been taken out of context. "It's been a lot of noise over nothing," Desailly said. "It's true that I said I would leave Chelsea one day and that it is better to go after winning, but that's all. I'm here to win something and after that we will see what happens." Chelsea have Ferrier suspended and Baloyi unavailable, but Oxford have bigger problems, on and off the pitch. Financially crippled and struggling in the Nationwide League first division, they are also without Gerard and Beauchamp tonight.

No 7 followed two minutes later, when Boateng left Zagorakis in a crumpled heap on the edge of the area; from basketball to basket-case, it could be said. And so the die was cast.

Leading by Wielan's cleverly lofted goal in the seventeenth minute, Coventry decided that massed defence was their only option. Lester, spurning enough good chances to win the whole competition, never mind one tie, failed abysmally to translate possession into goals and their neighbours twice broke the length of the pitch to score in second-half stoppage time through Telfer and Frogatt, and add a preposterous twist to the score.

Not one for sardines or rawlers (or community service), Boateng was blunt. "I told the ref he was being childish over the first booking, but you could tell after 25 minutes that he was going to send someone off," he said. "The second booking was my first foul." Boateng will ask O'Neill, who insisted "it was not my intention to get anyone sent off" and who promised to study the video, to support an appeal.

The Leicester manager, though, has his own, more pressing concerns. While his team might easily have won — Elliott fluffed a first-half penalty, Heskey missed two clear openings and Izett a brace of sitters — O'Neill's lack of squad depth, highlighted by

Donewald storms into fresh trouble

By NICHOLAS HARLING

BOB DONEWALD, the irascible coach of Derby Storm, who is facing his latest disciplinary hearing tomorrow — on his 29th birthday — could be in further trouble with officialdom after yet another argument with a referee on Saturday.

Derby's 107-94 victory over Birmingham Bullets was tarnished by a technical offence incurred by Donewald, when he took Keith Bruce the referee, to task over the positioning of Mike Finger, the visiting coach. Finger, according to Donewald, was not being punished for constantly stepping out of bounds on to the court. Yet when Donewald tried to make a point by following Finger's example, he was penalised by Bruce.

It was for Donewald's alleged crude insults against Bill Jones, the Welsh official, after his team's recent single-point loss to the Leopards that Donewald faces an English Basketball Association disciplinary committee this week.

The latest episode did not prevent Derby from maintaining their slim hopes of catching the Budweiser League leaders. With the help of 24 points from York Williams and 20 from Joel Burns, the Storm shook off the Bullets in a 14-0 second-quarter burst, opening up a 44-25 half-time lead.

The Bullets rallied with Reggie Kirk's entire 17-point haul coming in the third quarter. Nigel Lloyd, their top scorer with 29 points — two more than Tony Sims — was another to incur the wrath of Bruce. For abusing the official, the Bajan also received a technical offence.

Like the Bullets, who are waiting for a work permit for Justin Phoenix, their new signing, Worthing Bears were also unable to select their American newcomer, Adam McCarran.

The league's bottom club could have done with him against Sheffield Sharks, who proceeded to a comfortable 133-107 win on the South Coast only 24 hours after they had beaten Edinburgh Rocks 93-86. The two victories helped the Sharks to regain their four-point lead over Manchester Giants at the top.

Frost revels in home comforts

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN STELLENBOSCH

DAVID FROST proved that home advantage can sometimes be a pleasure, not a penance, when he won the South African Open here with a rousing last round. Frost grew up in these parts. This was his home course, on which he has played countless rounds, and now he owns a vineyard near Paarl, 25 miles away. In winning on a course that he knows like the back of his hand, Frost did much as Ernie Els had done one week earlier when Els won the South African PGA championship on a course that he had played hundreds of times in his youth.

It was Frost's second victory in the tournament and the occasion was embellished by the way that he played one of his best rounds to scratch the lead on the 71st hole from Sten Struver. Frost's three under par, on a day when the wind had got up and turned a difficult course into a tiger, was a round of high quality. Only ten men beat par yesterday. Frost, 39, finished one stroke ahead of Scott Dunlap, and Jeet Singh, the increasingly impressive Indian.

The crux of Frost's round came on the 70th hole. In Frost's opinion, this 456-yard, par four, which was played into the wind, is the most difficult hole on the course. Once he had secured a four there to remain one stroke behind Struver, he allowed himself a

slight pat on the back. Perhaps that was why he played the 71st so well, teeing off with a two-iron, hitting a nine-iron to 20ft, and then rolling in the putt to go five under par and level with Struver. Frost's putting, which has never been a weakness, had recently become a strength, thanks to a tip, given by a fellow professional late last year, to move his head to the right after impact. This move has the effect of making his hands, and hence the putter, go through a ball towards the hole.

He still had to face a crisis, though, when his drive on the 72nd hole rolled into the rough — only the second fairway that he missed from the tee all day — and then his second shot rolled into a greenside bunker. Frost's bunker play is as good as his putting and now he exploded to 2ft to get his par and remain five under.

In the meantime, Struver had dropped strokes on the 11th and 12th, but birdied the 15th to get back to five under par. His luck ran out when he needed it most. His drive on the last hole rolled into a divot in the middle of the fairway and, from there, he yanked a nine-iron into a pond to the left of the last green and took a six.

In this, he was typical of many. Though Steven Webster had a 70 that included two eagles, to finish joint-fourth, with Peter Baker, among others, high scores were commonplace. Ignacio Garrido had an 81, as did Clinton Whitelaw. Garrido and Whitelaw had been in second and joint-third places overnight, one and two strokes behind Struver. Garrido plummeted to 34th. Whitelaw to 43rd.

Struver's grip on the tournament began to loosen in the third round on Saturday. At one point, he was nine under par and four strokes ahead, but he finished with a 73, which included an eight at the 12th, and a 74 yesterday. Yet Struver was philosophical, as his ill luck on the 72nd fairway, "That's golf," he said.

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One, in particular, addressed him in an immaculate and loud English accent, grabbing him by the hand and arm, his voice carrying back to the tee of the hole that Els had just completed. Els smiled and laughed at what was being said and, as he did so, the other caddies babbled excitedly, too. Later, Els would say he had no idea of

the name of that particular caddie. "I see him every time I come down here. He's a character. He makes me laugh. There are a lot like him down here." Two days later, Hettie Els, Ernie's mother, walked nine holes with her son in the second

round of the South African Open, pleased and proud to note his demeanour and the esteem in which he is held — and then retreated from the 40C heat to the shelter of the clubhouse. "After television came to South Africa, we gave them a portable black-and-white set for them to watch — but only after they had done their homework. Ernie used to hide it under his duvet and watch it. I pretended I did not know. We had a billiard table in the house and one day I walked into the room and saw him standing on the table practising his putting. We have laughed about that a lot since. Ernie is the calm one. He has a lot of self-confidence and is quite assertive. Dirk is more peaceful. We've got the dogs there — a labrador and a cocker spaniel and a Great Dane, which is almost one year old now. We shall be away from South Africa until May or perhaps August."

As he begins making his towards the United States, where next month he will resume his rivalry with David Duval and Tiger Woods, against whom he felt he performed so inadequately for the latter part of last year, Els does so knowing that he carries the best wishes of a country, not just one race, with him.

The evidence for this comes from Johann Rupert, Els's mentor and one of the country's most successful businessmen. "We have a young lady working with us. She is black and good-looking and at a tournament recently she and Tiger Woods had a picture taken together. Then Ernie came around and she got a picture of herself with him. She took the photographs back to her friends and they were all more interested in seeing the picture with Ernie than with Tiger. It suggests that the new South Africa is working."

"I was worried when Ernie won his first US Open that he might not be able to cope with it all. I thought: 'Heavens, oo, it's like growing up too soon. I felt he was too young. It was a great big thing to win that major. I worried that he might get carried away. I did not have sleepless nights, but I was uneasy.'

"But the crisis is over now. He is 29 and mature and financially in the big league. He is handling people the way he should. His steadfastness comes from inside. It is because he is such a solid, self-contained boy. He is not any different now than he is now. He still has that thin, lithe South African accent."

Thin and little are not adjectives that can be applied to the massive Els, who resembles a flanker. As a teenager, as a tennis player good enough to represent his province and a fly half who could kick with both feet, he was as thin as a butcher's pencil.

"I played top-class tennis. I'd still be as thin as that." Els said, "but I had to fall into a bit for this sport. Sport is very important to me. In fact sport is my life. I follow sport first and the stock market second. I have a satellite dish and I can watch sport when we are in the US. We get tapes of rugby matches sent to me and sometimes I see them on a TV channel three days later."

On December 31 he married Lize, his long-time girl-



JOHN HOPKINS

Els unites all colours of the rainbow

In the rainbow nation, one sportsman stands out above almost all others. In this once-divided country, Ernie Els unites more people in his support than Bobby Skinstad, the newest rugby sensation whose face peers out from magazine covers, or Doctor Khumalo, of the Kaiser Chiefs football team, or Hansie Cronje, the captain of the South Africa cricket team.

There was a touching demon-

stration of the broad appeal of Els, the bulking Afrikaner, here at Stellenbosch Golf Club last Wednesday evening.

Els finished his round in the pro-am on the 9th green and, before he could begin clambering up the path to the stone clubhouse, he was surrounded and lionised by black

caddies.

The boys, Dirk and Ernie, were competitive with one another. It was good for Ernie when he was growing up and he had to struggle to keep up with Dirk, his older brother. As youngsters, Dirk painted the walls of his bedroom while Ernie stuck up posters of Jack Nicklaus. His heroes were Steve Ballesteros, Tom Watson, Gary Player.

friend. After a party to end all parties — one guest claimed that Els organised scrummaging practice for remain ing guests in the early hours of the next morning — the bride — and groom fled to the remote wilderness of the west coast of their country boy and I had

try. "I am a city boy and I had never been there," Els said.

"We were roughing it. There was no electricity. We used gas lamps and candles and slept under canvas. Water for the toilet was brought from the sea. We are so spoilt, spending our time in five-star hotels, I didn't shave for a week.

It was great."

Last night, Els, obviously

sad to be leaving home, flew

to Perth for the Heineken

Classic this week. "It is tough

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Els said. "We've been here for

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ly peaceful. We've got the dogs there — a labrador and a cocker spaniel and a Great Dane, which is almost one year old now. We shall be away from South Africa until May or perhaps August."

As he begins making his towards the United States, where next month he will resume his rivalry with David Duval and Tiger Woods, against whom he felt he performed so inadequately for the latter part of last year, Els does so knowing that he carries the best wishes of a country, not just one race, with him.

The evidence for this comes from Johann Rupert, Els's mentor and one of the country's most successful businessmen. "We have a young lady working with us. She is black and good-looking and at a tournament recently she and Tiger Woods had a picture taken together. Then Ernie came around and she got a picture of herself with him. She took the photographs back to her friends and they were all more interested in seeing the picture with Ernie than with Tiger. It suggests that the new South Africa is working."

"I was worried when Ernie won his first US Open that he might not be able to cope with it all. I thought: 'Heavens, oo, it's like growing up too soon. I felt he was too young. It was a great big thing to win that major. I worried that he might get carried away. I did not have sleepless nights, but I was uneasy.'

"But the crisis is over now. He is 29 and mature and financially in the big league. He is handling people the way he should. His steadfastness comes from inside. It is because he is such a solid, self-contained boy. He is not any different now than he is now. He still has that thin, lithe South African accent."

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"I played top-class tennis. I'd still be as thin as that." Els said, "but I had to fall into a bit for this sport. Sport is very important to me. In fact sport is my life. I follow sport first and the stock market second. I have a satellite dish and I can watch sport when we are in the US. We get tapes of rugby matches sent to me and sometimes I see them on a TV channel three days later."

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THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Gray steers almost perfect path amid twists and turns

A short while ago, I watched an encounter between two male lions. It was won by the weaker of the two, old, skinny, a bag of bones, gone in the tooth. The loser was in his prime as sleek and as glossy, a black-maned lion as you could wish to see.

He was not outwitted, it was simply that the old lion had the lion of dominance he sincerely believed that he was the top man. But also, and perhaps crucially, the young lion had the habit of submission. In his heart, he deferred to the older male. In his heart, he was second-best.

It will not be that way for ever — perhaps even now, the pride dynamics have altered —

but in that period when I had the pride under prolonged, daily observation, the long-established dominance hierarchy remained in place. The strong deferred to the weaker.

And that was exactly the way it was at Old Trafford yesterday, when Sky Sports brought us the noon-day clash

High Noon the movie was on BBC the previous day — between Manchester United and Liverpool. The cast list was enough to ensure a compelling occasion and, as it happened, the game was an absolute belter, spot at its best. Which also happens to be television at its best.

Those with memories that extend deep before the dawn of time — before Eric Cantona,

before Sky Television, before the Cup — turned into the AXA-sponsored FA Cup — will recall that Liverpool won everything. It was Manchester United who had the habit of deference. They submitted to Liverpool. After a period of eye contact, it was always United who blinked.

Lord knows, United had plenty of excellent players, but they also had a culture of deference and Liverpool made themselves personal overdogs the length and breadth of Europe. No team across the Continent was able to look into Liverpool's eyes without blinking.

Roy Evans was there during the great days and was made manager long after Liverpool had lost the ability to exert

automatic deference. He was there yesterday, doing the studio commentary for Sky, no longer manager and looking much older than when doing the desperately worrying job of seeking to rebuild the culture of dominance.

These days, of course, it is United who exert deference. Evans talked about Liverpool attacking, of Liverpool being no longer afraid — and there

was Michael Owen's third-minute goal to prove him right. Or so it seemed.

Then a wonderful Liverpool defensive effort, with United having a shot cleared off the line, hitting a post, seeing fluky deflections scrape the safe side of a post. And Andy Gray chortling that it was clearly destined to be Liverpool's day.

The best commentators keep up with the play, while

the adequate ones follow play. The very rare ones anticipate. The worst anticipate wrong. There was a time when I used to collect Truemanisms: any statement by any commentator that is immediately contradicted by actual events. "Bob Willis knows he can never be a fast bowler." Four wickets in the half-hour to big Bob.

The opposite of a Truemanism is probably a Benaudism and the nearest football has — for football is a much more swiftly changing and volatile game than cricket — to a purveyor of Benaudism is Gray. He correctly anticipated defensive problems for Liverpool with the loss of Paul Ince, but he was never quite up to speed with the United revival. But

then who could have been? The late equaliser, then the stoppage-time winner from Ole Gunnar Solsjaer, who has been given the unwieldy nickname of The Baby-Faced Assassin.

It fails to do complete justice, though, to his genuinely sinister qualities. Solsjaer's face looks at the same time babyish and incongruously old: a vicious, stiletto-wielding elf. He would be perfect casting for the midget murderer in *Don't Look Now*.

The discursive nature of the Sky commentary means that Gray and Martin Tyler are sometimes sidetracked into talking about other things

than what is happening right now, right here. The wild and wacky conclusion made both a trifle leaden-footed.

Still, Gray came up with a Benaudism when he emphasised the need for concentration over the last couple of minutes as David Beckham lined up the fatal free kick. Thirty seconds later, a goal and a lapse of concentration entitled Gray to his "I told you so" as Dwight Yorke pushed the ball into the goal.

This was a great two hours of sport and Sky have a right to punch the air with delight. If it had been any better, it might even have made the appalling and pernicious AXA advert seem intelligent, or even bearable.

The driver of this train of opulence and privilege has been Juan Antonio Samaranch

Presiding over Olympic shame

The Great Olympic Gravy Train has hit the buffers and, not surprisingly, just three of the nine people specifically accused by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of dishonouring the Olympic Movement have volunteered to get off.

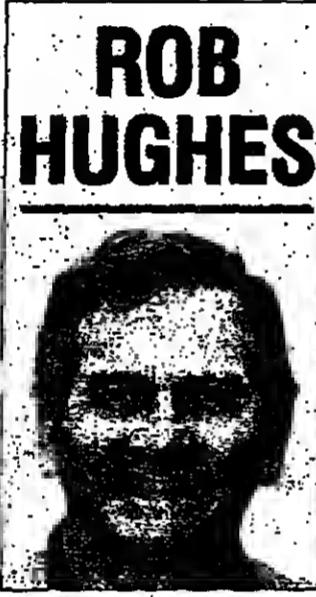
As a result, for the next six weeks, six more men of the committee are suspended, though they have been named and shamed: they face expulsion on March 17 if a two-thirds majority of their colleagues dare to do it. During that time, the Olympic rings and the ethics that they represent will remain in limbo.

The driver of this train of opulence and privilege has been Juan Antonio Samaranch. His "I told you so" in a shaky voice, that he was sorry that some of his colleagues had let down the Olympic ideal, but, although he will seek a vote of re-confidence, he takes no responsibility for presiding over the decline and fall of the body of men and a few women that he has led into this unhappy mess.

Many presidents would have resigned, but Samaranch '78 believes that the Olympic movement needs him now more than ever. It needs someone — but not a man who, literally, was granted a three-car train to transport himself and his wife to Nagano one month before that winter city was granted the 1998 Games.

The vice-president, Dick Pound, the Montreal lawyer who was charged with heading the IOC internal inquiry, yesterday failed to assert the full integrity that the Olympics now rapidly need.

He supported the president in office and stated that the \$700,000 (about £440,000) that everyone has been openly stating was spent by Salt Lake City to bribe members



ROB HUGHES

for their votes was not corrupt, not bribery and not criminal. It merely broke the Olympic oath, he said, and brought the reputation of the IOC into disrepute.

Yves Bourdais had said earlier that Samaranch received so many "profound" gifts that he would need a house the size of ten acres to take them all home. Is this the image, the reputation, the leadership that the IOC, with a grain of suspicion, might gainsay us such things?

The public are heartily sick of the hypocrisy, the bandying of words. Either the named individuals are the worst example of "brutally obvious corruption", as one member of Pound's commission described it, or they are being framed.

Sergio Samantar, the Chilean politician who is one of the suspended six, summed things up when he said: "I am certain I did

not act incorrectly at any moment."

One can see the leadership of the IOC, if it has got this wrong, in the dock for defamation of character, but, in the next six weeks, the public will be floundering, bound to listen to more hubris, such as the Salt Lake City official who describes his city's largesse as a "humanitarian outreach programme". May the Gods of Olympia judge us such things.

There was a voice of reason from England, Menzies Campbell, a former Olympic sprinter and an MP expected to throw his hat into the Liberal Democratic leadership ring, has called for the entire IOC to be scrapped. He warns that the world is fearful "that the Games are for drug takers in trackuits and bribe takers in blazers".

Does the Honourable Ming not know that the IOC is no longer calling them bribe takers? Better that he, a

man with real feeling and experience of taking part, should condemn the malpractice than Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport. Only on Friday, Banks described Samaranch as being "a man who is not accused of anything".

To millions who care about the Olympic ideal, who believe, despite everything, that it is an irreplaceable concept, Samaranch is guilty, at the very least, of complacently building up a committee that has become blatantly contaminated.

The Olympic flame is withering and has been ever since 1984, when the \$200 million profits of the Los Angeles Games began a race of competitive greed by countries, or rather cities, trying to outbid each other, legally or otherwise, to stage the Olympics.

Steve Ovett, an Olympian who should know better, suggests that competitors will not care about the

IOC ethics as they did for gold, but this is a wayward observation. Even he misconstrues the idea of the Olympics: it was revived 103 years ago by Pierre de Coubertin as a competition for "the taking part".

For all but those who are favourably inclined, who believe, despite everything, that it is an irreplaceable concept, Samaranch is guilty, at the very least, of complacently building up a committee that has become blatantly contaminated.

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SPORTS LETTERS

Wilson of the Wizard stirs memories

From Mr Eric Hamer

Sir, John Bryant's article on Wilson of the Wizard (January 19) brought back memories of the late Ron Pickering. I remember some years ago, Ron, commenting on an athletics meeting, referring to that great Scottish sprinter, Allan Wells, who had come to the track in black vest and the then little-worn black Lytra shorts, as looking like Wilson of the Wizard — a comment lost on a young generation, but not on us Welsh readers.

Apart from Wilson of the Wizard's prowess on the track, let us not forget that he was the first man to climb Everest and return, without

oxygen — and in his woolen leotard, of course.

Yours faithfully,

ERIC HAMER,
13, Lant Avenue, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LA.

From Mr Eric Roberts

Sir, The only athlete who measured up to the great Wilson is Jos Naylor, the Wasdale runner, who ran 72 Lakeland peaks in under 24 hours in 1975. I helped Jos on this run and was struck by his likeness to Wilson.

Yours sincerely,

ERIC ROBERTS,
Lynnhurst, Townhead Road, Carlisle CA5 7JF.

One-day choices

From Mr Henry Pepper

Sir, While England's cricketers struggle to match their rivals for technique and natural ability, why do the selectors repeatedly compound these problems with poor choices?

The selections of the bit-players Mark Allix and Vince Wells have proved to be a mockery in the Triangular series, as they have been found to be out of their depth.

Ian Austin performed well in the one-day international in the summer. He even produced a man-of-the-match display. However, he must wait for the ridiculously large squad of 30 to be cut down to 15 for the World Cup. In this time, he will not have a chance

to impress the selectors. The

same goes for Mark Ramprakash, England's second-most consistent batsman in the Ashes, who has also been overlooked from the triangular series. I doubt inclusion in the preliminary squad of 30 will have put their minds at rest.

Perhaps the selectors could

learn from their Australian counterparts, who, as Ian Botham commented, "got it right again and again".

Yours sincerely

HENRY PEPPER

Broad Close,

Rossett Green Lane,

Harrogate HG2 9LH.

Barmy Army

From Mr Douglas Smith

Sir, The attempt by Mr Gordon Birwistle (January 18) to

sacrifice the Barmy Army following the England cricketers in their sad professional trek around the world falls flat on the ears of those who, like myself, have suffered the aural experience.

He argues that they are uplifted

spirits given to charitable works when not submitting to repetitive, mindless chants. If they offered some hours of silence in return for collecting box cash, these good causes might benefit vastly.

Or perhaps they should join forces with the Salvation Army, as the England team need their help as much as the socially down-trodden.

Sincerely,
DOUGLAS SMITH
Astral House,
Regency Place, SW1P 2EA.

Rugby heads should roll

From Mr John Streule

Sir, We may not have the experience or expertise of Fran Cotton, but there are many who also "know and love" the game of rugby football. We must all be in despair over the ineptitude of the present English management and their apparent intentions to ruin this great game. As I write, the participation of England in the Six Nations Championship remains in doubt, but even then this blindered and largely anonymous men will surely back down before this calamitous state is confirmed.

To those of us who simply wish to enjoy the game and to read match reports and not politics, this present débâcle can come as no surprise. After all, one did not have to be a Woodward to recognise that the international programme in the summer was ludicrous. One did not require the business acumen of a Branson to anticipate financial crisis in clubs paying six-figure salaries when average gates were in the low four figures. Nor did we require the expertise of a Satchi to realise that, at a time when a changing game needed to be promoted, the removal of all live coverage from

terrestrial television was tantamount to sabotage.

All these are so obvious as to suggest that our present administrators are more interested in short-term gain than in the welfare of the game. Perhaps this is uncharitable; perhaps they are simply incompetent. Who are they? Do they show remorse or apologise for the shambles they are creating? Instead of blaming others, it is time for someone to stand up and be counted, to take responsibility and bring some sanity to the game before it is too late.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STREULE,
Low Swinlbank,
Longsleddale, Kendal,
Cumbria LA8 9BD.

Sex sacrificed

From Mr Peter Walters

Sir, Facing the prospect of a relegation battle, I note that to ensure survival, Ruud Gullit's Newcastle team is to sacrifice

sex football".

Clearly, Ruud has appreciated that, in adversity, British football's traditional tactical last stand has always appeared to have been "kicked and chased".

Yours faithfully,
PETER WALTERS,
Red Trees,
Holmefield Avenue,
Thornton Cleveleys,
Lancashire FY5 3QZ.

This week in THE TIMES

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Allied Dunbar Premiership: Leicester make heavy weather of maintaining title push

Richards in no mood to rest on his laurels

Leicester.....23

Gloucester.....16

By ALAN PEARCE

THE mood of Dean Richards, their manager, is usually a good barometer of Leicester's performance. On Saturday, his surly manner reflected the form of a team who will need to show far more ruthlessness in coming weeks to maintain their leadership of the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

Richmond, tomorrow, Harlequins and London Irish are in wait for Leicester before their potential title decider with Northampton on March 13. Three of the four games are away. No one was arguing when Richards said: "It's not an easy run-in."

It might have been worse. After suffering for 78 minutes from painfully slow ball, Gloucester broke the gain-line for once and Terry Fanoula's thundering run put Richard Tombs over. It was the first time that the visitors had penetrated the Leicester 22 and, after Mark Mapleton converted, there followed some anxious moments for most of the 11,394 crowd as Gloucester sought the try that would give their half the chance to kick his side to what would have been an improbable draw.

Such a result would have been a travesty, as Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, was quick to admit. "At 23-9 and with Leicester on our line, I thought it could be 30 or 40 points against us," he said. "They had all the ball and it was only their errors that kept us in the game. Leicester were not that impressive and looked like a side that expected to win."

In a mediocre game, poor decision-making and frequent turnovers combined to deny Leicester the victory margin that their territorial supremacy warranted. They struggled in the tight and were twice forced back from their own lineout when in scoring range. Though Martin Corry again excelled at No 8, the back row missed the quicksilver Neil Back, who was absent with flu.

It was left to Dave

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Lougheed (22, 40), Stransky (61). Conversions: Simpson, Penalty goals: Simpson (2, 9, 51). Gloucester: Tries: Tombs (78), Fanoula (30), Mapleton. Penalty goals: Mapleton (3, 7, 28, 31).

SCORING SEQUENCE: (Leicester 6pt, 23, 40, Stransky 6pt, 1). Conversion: Simpson, Penalty goals: Simpson (2, 9, 51). Gloucester: Tries: Tombs (78), Fanoula (30), Mapleton. Penalty goals: Mapleton (3, 7, 28, 31).



Howard of Leicester attempts to charge down a kick by Fanoula during his side's 23-16 success over Gloucester at Welford Road on Saturday

O'Shea helps Irish to sustain revival

Harlequins.....17

London Irish.....22

By MARK SOUSTER

WHEN the London Irish team broke up last summer, Conor O'Shea said *au revoir* to several good friends, among them David Humphreys, the linchpin of Ulster's unlikely assault on the European Cup. O'Shea stayed behind at Sunbury, one of the few Irishmen to survive Dick Best's cull of Ireland's call-ups, who he joined in 1995 from Lansdowne, has been as significant as that of Humphreys to Ulster.

After eight wins in nine matches, in which O'Shea has played a pivotal role, London Irish stare giddily down from the virtual summit of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. O'Shea may have wondered about Best's motives, but results have proved him right.

O'Shea, who scored two of his side's tries on Saturday,

embodies the old and the new at Sunbury. The respect between captain and coach is mutual, Best says of O'Shea: "He is an outstanding man and player and a very good leader of men. He leads by example. He does inspirational things on the field. That is why he is captain. We are very proud of him."

O'Shea is full of admiration for Best, too. He said: "You don't want a coach to be your best friend. It is no use being mollycoddled. We have a laugh and a joke, but we know there is a line you don't cross. He has instilled an unbeknown professional attitude."

Seven early-season defeats probably puts the fit out of reach, but they are undeniably the form team, creating a formidable reputation along the way. Their Teley's Bitter Cup fifth-round match against Northampton this Saturday promises to be the tie of the round.

Best and O'Shea say nothing can be taken for granted.

but John Gallagher, the Harlequins director of rugby, believes that the Exiles will stay the course. "They were pretty awesome today. I can't see them losing again," he said.

Harlequins, who have enjoyed equally improved fortunes recently, were handicapped by the loss of Zinzan

but got nowhere before turning over possession. Bishop counter-attacked and found O'Shea, whose clever angle took him to the line.

When Bishop rounded off a searing run by Woods, London Irish knew that they had done enough: it would be a delicious irony if the Exiles, who have to leave the inadequate facilities at Sunbury next season, pitch up at the Stoop in place of London Scottish. Now Best would really enjoy that — and stranger things have happened.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Tries: O'Shea (5pt, 23, 40, Stransky 6pt, 1). Conversions: Simpson, Penalty goals: Simpson (2, 9, 51). London Irish: Tries: O'Shea (20, 5pt, 1). Conversions: Woods (2, 9, 51). Penalty goals: Mapleton (3, 7, 28, 31).

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SCORING SEQUENCE: (London Irish 6pt, 20

RACING: CHAMPION HURDLER TREATS FRENCH HOLLY WITH DISDAIN AS HE WARMS UP FOR TITLE DEFENCE

Istabraq gives command performance

FROM CHRIS MCGRATH
AT LEOPARDSTOWN

IT DOES not pay to be too credulous in racing, but there are times when one is better off accepting an air of greatness at face value. Nobody ever suggested that Istabraq was a counterfeit champion, but at Leopardstown yesterday he revealed a watermark of breathtaking clarity against the most brilliant light available.

He did not just beat French Holly, a different calibre of horse from most of those he had brushed aside in establishing his dominion. He humiliated him.

BIG-RACE DETAILS

2.45 AIG EUROPE CHAMPION HURDLE (Group 1, 2m, 120yds) (7 runners)

1. ISTABRAQ (C F Swan, 8-15 lbs) 2.

French Holly (M Maguire, 8-4) 3. Zafara-

(P Johnson, 16-11 4. Theatreford (T

P Tracy, 11-11 5. LUSO RAN (P Horne-

15th) 6. Black Country (P J Ryan, N.R.

Shannon, 11, 7, 8. Diz (P O'Brien at Pi-

lown, Co Kildare, Tote 11, 50, ET 30,

ET 20, DF, ET 70, CSF, 2.01)

Istabraq won the AIG Europe Champion Hurdle with such exaggerated leisure, with such mockery, that the defence of his Smurfit Champion Hurdle crown at Cheltenham now appears a mere lap of honour. The Tote quotes him at 13-8 on. Ladbrokes just 2-1 on.

Corral even sought to resurrect the market by offering 6-4 against him winning by more than six lengths. Aidan O'Brien, his trainer, made that sound eminently reasonable with a breezy assurance that he would be sending an even better horse to Cheltenham. The way he was talking, in fact, it was surprising that Istabraq had not collapsed with exhaustion after a circuit of the paddock.

"He was a good bit off today," O'Brien said. "He was 15 kilos heavier than last year. When we weighed him last night, we weren't sure we were doing the right thing running, but he had to have a race. He improved so much for this day last year that I'd say he's going to improve a lot before Chelten-



Istabraq, left, leaves French Holly in his wake as he clears the last on his way to an impressive victory at Leopardstown yesterday

ham. Seven pounds? It could be a lot more than that."

Ferdy Murphy, the trainer of French Holly, absorbed the shocking manner of his defeat with dignity, but it must have hurt to see the colossal gelding stretch for home to no discernible effect. Adrian Maguire had been obliged to make his own running, an enterprise at

least rewarded by its liberating effect on French Holly's jumping, which — bar the third last — was more fluid than has often been the case.

The big horse had been so remorseless in similar ground at Kempton over Christmas that Charlie Swan made sure he kept Istabraq at the head of the chasing pack, but he did

not share their increasing alarm as Maguire tried to open up turning into the straight. Instead, he took the first of several satirical looks over the shoulder, as Istabraq sauntered upside and went a length up after the last. Swan was so determined to rub Maguire's nose into the

ground that he deceived the crowd into wondering if French Holly's brave rally might yet punish his mischievousness. It took but one perfidious push, however, to preserve a length's advantage at the line, which Swan crossed exploding with mirth and clutching an exultant fist.

"It's good for the horse,

gives him confidence," O'Brien said. "He's getting more confident, and he's getting quicker. We've thought all year that he was a much improved horse, much stronger. Charlie said he did everything very quickly."

Swan confirmed later: "He travelled super and was brilliant at the third last and

again two out. I didn't even have to ask him to close."

Murphy fears that the race is now for place money only. "Istabraq is a brilliant champion," he said. "My lad jumped great, apart from the third last, and I'd like to see what would happen if we could sit behind him instead. But the writing was on the wall a long way out."

Istabraq bears the green standard at the Festival, clearly, but he will have formidable support — even if, on the face of it, His Song did not strike precisely the right note in the Baileys Arkle Perpetual Trophy.

He cruised into the lead but

RICHARD EVANS



Richard Evans

had to be driven so firmly to hold off Padre Mio that Shay Bartly was banned for four days. Mouse Morris, however, was adamant that His Song had run an ideal Guineas Arkle Trophy trial.

"That was perfect," the trainer said. "Obviously, it's disappointing he didn't win by further, but they went no gallop in this tacky ground. He needs a really good gallop and he might have been a little bit short as well." The trainer added: "I liked the way he backed."

After racing, Florida Pearl, Ireland's big hope for the Tote Gold Cup, returned to the scene of his fall in the Epsom Chase — and of his next appearance, in the Hennessy Gold Cup on Sunday week — for a round of school-closing. They think he has the makings of greatness over here. He need not seek far for inspiration.

Nicholls prepares Festival agenda

BY OUR RACING STAFF

CALL EQUINAME, the game winner of the rescheduled Victor Chandler Chase at Kempton Park on Saturday, will go straight to Cheltenham for the Queen Mother Champion Chase. The second leg of a treble for trainer Paul Nicholls and jockey Robert Thornton, Call Equiname got up on the run-in to beat the favourite, Get Real, by a neck in the two-mile event.

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Lord Relic left behind

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

open for the Richard Brothers' powerful stable.

Tim Mitchell, favourite to win the national men's championship for the first time, got off the mark for the season at Saturday's Silverton meeting at the Ollie Cann-trained Spread The Word (4-7).

Polly Curling and Ashley Farrant landed doubles, Curling scoring on Play Poker (4-5) and Camillas Legacy (4-5), while Farrant teamed up with trainer David Pipe for Shaft (7-2) and Well Armed (7-4).

Punters were on the receiving end at the Cambridgeshire meeting, most emphatically when Native Venture (20-) won the ladies' open, ending Cache Fleurs' unbeaten run between the flags and retaining champion mare Libby Gundry (lunatic) landed the ladies' open for Richard Brothers' stable.

Emma Coventry, from down Forest in Kent, owns and rides Native Venture, who will be aimed at the Marlborough Cup timber race in May. On the first day of the season, Native Venture had been beaten a distance at Colleham by The Auctioneer, but the grey had devoured the form when succumbing to Real Value (6-4) in the PPORA members' race. Real Value, also a Cottenham winner, provided another success for trainer Di Grisell and rider Paul Hacking, their third from four runners in 1999.

Caroline Bailey, trainer of The Auctioneer and whose horses have been in tremendous form, saddled Copper Thistle (6-1) to win the men's open under owner Richard Hunnington.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Haydock Park

Golgotha (m) (grey) in placed

12.5m (2m 4f) 1st. Whistled (A Maguire, 2-7) 2nd. Lucy Ross (11-12) 3rd. Prairie Indigo (1-11) 10m (2m 10f) 1st. D. McInerney, Tote 11, 2nd. C. O'Brien, ET 20, CSF, 2.01

11.5m (2m 4f) 1st. Fourth in Line (N Whinney, 10-11) 2nd. Share Cross (10-11) 3rd. Share Cross (10-11) 4th. Share Cross (10-11) 5th. V. Williams, 11-12 6th. C. O'Brien, Tote 11, 7th. C. O'Brien, 11-12 8th. C. O'Brien, 11-12 9th. C. O'Brien, 11-12 10th. DF, 22.00, CSF, 2.01

11.5m (2m 4f) 1st. Deano's Beeno (T. Jones, 4-11) 2nd. Share Cross (10-11) 3rd. Share Cross (10-11) 4th. Share Cross (10-11) 5th. V. Williams, 11-12 6th. C. O'Brien, Tote 11, 7th. C. O'Brien, 11-12 8th. C. O'Brien, 11-12 9th. C. O'Brien, 11-12 10th. DF, 22.00, CSF, 2.01

11.5m (2m 4f) 1st. General Wolfe (N Whinney, 4-11) 2nd. Simply Darling (10-11) 3rd. Rainy Day (11-12) 4th. 10m (2m 10f) 1st. V. Williams, 11-12 2nd. Lucy Ross (11-12) 3rd. Lucy Ross (11-12) 4th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 5th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 6th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 7th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 8th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 9th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 10th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 11th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 12th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 13th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 14th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 15th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 16th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 17th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 18th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 19th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 20th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 21st. Lucy Ross (11-12) 22nd. Lucy Ross (11-12) 23rd. Lucy Ross (11-12) 24th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 25th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 26th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 27th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 28th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 29th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 30th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 31st. Lucy Ross (11-12) 32nd. Lucy Ross (11-12) 33rd. Lucy Ross (11-12) 34th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 35th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 36th. Lucy Ross (11-12) 37th. 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ATHLETICS

Radcliffe is forced to play second fiddle

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ANITA WEYERMANN was not riding a trick cycle while juggling three sticks as she celebrated her victory over Paula Radcliffe, of Great Britain, in the Coca-Cola International cross-country in Belfast on Saturday, but it may have been merely the absence of props that stopped her. The multitalented Weyermann, from Switzerland, can, when the mood strikes, demonstrate the basic skills of a circus entertainer as well as ski downhill, fast. And, for good measure, she can pull from her cabinet a 1,500 metres medal from the previous world championships.

Weyermann developed her one-wheel, cycling-juggling technique some years ago to improve her balance for skiing. Then, having skied competitively, in International Ski Federation (FIS) events, she revealed herself as an athlete.

In 1994, she won the world junior 1,500 metres title, which convinced her to put track before piste. "I thought I had better make athletes my first sport," she said.

Two years later, Weyermann gained a second junior world title, this time at 3,000 metres, and her victory over Radcliffe at cross-country represents an extension of the path of progress that she has taken in the past two years to senior world and European 1,500 metres bronze medals. To judge by her form at the weekend, Weyermann, 21, has every chance of taking her first senior international gold at the world cross-country championships in March.

Radcliffe will not come up against Weyermann in the world championships. Weyermann has opted for the short-course race, over four kilometres, while Radcliffe has chosen the longer event, over eight kilometres. Finishing second, Radcliffe was well clear of women she will line up in the world championships.

EACH success story has its small imperfection, be it the sloppy goal conceded before the cup-final triumph, the double faults served in the straight-sets victory, the missed puts on the way to golfing glory. How often do you hear a team manager say, when all squad members are fit and available, that this apparent state of perfection has served only to create a selection headache?

At South Dartmoor Community College, success has created its own flaw. The headache, the double faults suffered by team managers, is one that the college is pleased to have, however. As a consequence of its specialist sports college status, South Dartmoor has so many pupils in year seven who want to play team sport that other schools cannot meet the demand for competition.

"Such is the interest that we are able to field four teams in netball, football and rugby and it is not easy to find fixtures for four teams," Steve Dinnie, director of PE and sport at South Dartmoor, said, "but it is a nice problem to have." A small impression of the college's own making. DfEE is trying to set up these satellites, which can link with



IN SCHOOLS

BY DAVID POWELL

become one of the first six specialist sports colleges under a Government plan to raise standards. "They will be regional focal points for excellence in physical education and community sport, extending links between families of schools, sports bodies and communities," the mission statement read.

Establishments seeking sports college status must raise £100,000 in sponsorship. For successful applicants, the sum is matched by the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE).

A local business in Ashburton, Devon, where the college is based, is pleased to have, however.

stands, offered land and property to the value of £90,000. A further £10,000 came from other local backers and South Dartmoor began to sense a metamorphosis.

There is more to it, though, for would-be sports colleges than raising money and building facilities. "They must demonstrate how they will set themselves up as the hub of sporting and physical education activity in their community," Sara Wright, of Youth Sport Trust, the registered charity appointed to liaise with schools, said.

All five are county junior schools. It is a model of how

primary schools and other secondary schools can develop programmes for the community."

South Dartmoor is a shining example, best illustrated by its netball programme. When Karen Dinnie arrived as the college netball coach, paid for by sports college funding, South Dartmoor had no county or area representative players and no local club.

Now Ashmoor Netball Club,

which she started, holds the

Plymouth indoor league title

and five of the first-team

squad are college students.

All five are county junior

players. It is a model of how



Karen Dinnie shows her South Dartmoor Community College pupils the route to goal. Photograph: Paul Levie

HOCKEY: LONDON TEAMS VICTORIOUS AGAINST RIVALS FROM ABROAD AND CLOSER TO HOME

Smith powers English win

By CATHY HARRIS

AN opportunity against sea-

soned opponents.

Smith was the top scorer, with 15, and it was her accuracy that inspired her club to victory in the first phase of their indoor campaign. This weekend, Slough hope to regain the national title and take part in the European club championship in February.

One of the unsung heroes of

the England outdoor team, Smith is equally at home in midfield or providing another option in attack. A member of the World Cup squad of last year and a silver medal-winner at the Commonwealth Games, Smith usually earns plaudits for her unselfish play in setting up chances for either Tina Cullen or Jane Sixsmith.

Halfday said that his team's learning curve had continued and they had learned valuable lessons. He added: "It's even more satisfying to have beaten an Australian side — the players are just starting to play the style I'm aiming for."

The England Under-21 team, representing Manchester and preparing for the European under-21 championship in Prague this weekend, finished last, but it was their gutsy 2-1 victory over Glasgow yesterday that effectively ended the hopes of the Scots.

Meanwhile, after the withdrawal of Welton from the national indoor play-offs, Hartlepool Magpies remained unbeaten in clinching promotion to the second division next season.

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Southgate break the ice to stay in touch at top

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

but Southgate eventually retaliated with goals from Simons, Kerr and Woods. Rotti, the German forward, figured prominently in most of Southgate's attacks.

Canterbury overcame a spirited challenge at home by Beeston to win 4-1, with Pincock scoring twice to add to goals by Everett, from a short corner.

Three minutes into the second half, Gillison sprang a surprise put Hounslow ahead.

Barford Tigers took over the leadership of the first division, followed by Surbiton, Doncaster and Havant.

The fifth round of the EHA Men's Cup was completed on Saturday, with Reading defeating Loughborough Students 4-1, to set up a home match against Canterbury on February 28. Reading had a 4-0 lead, with two goals by Pearn and one each by Ashdown, from a short corner, and Collison Langlands replied for Loughborough, the visitors, a minute before half-time.

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Queen's Bench Division

Deciding whether tenancy exists

Mehta v Royal Bank of Scotland plc and Others
Before Mr Richard Southwell, QC
(Judgment January 14)

In deciding whether a tenancy existed, the three hallmark principles, occupation for a term, a rent, and exclusive possession, as set out in *Street v Mountford* (1985) AC 825, 826, were not decisive in circumstances where other factors of equal importance to it in addition to those hallmarks were to existence.

Mr Richard Southwell, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in awarding Mr Jal Mehta £100,000 damages for wrongful eviction.

On October 1993 Mr Mehta had approached Mr John McKeerchar of Nolan Associates regarding the rent of a room in the Brumpton Hotel at 30/32a Brumpton Road, London, from £100 a week, as he was not staying at a London hotel.

Mr Mehta was informed that the Royal Bank of Scotland was the mortgagee in possession of the hotel, that Mr C. G. Adams had been appointed receiver of the hotel and was authorised to manage and operate it on behalf of Mr Falihel Giulam Hussain Ramji, P.C.A. the char, which was in due course to be sold.

Mr Adams had given written instructions to Nolan Associates as to the management agents for the properties. Mr McKeerchar after obtaining consent from the bank entered into an oral agreement with Mr Mehta, that Mr Mehta was to have exclusive possession on a long term basis of room 418 in the hotel at an agreed monthly rent.

The agreement continued for six months. On May 5, 1994 Mr Mehta was told by Mr Adams and Mr Nolan that completion was to take place on the site of the hotel, and he was asked leave by the following day, further, if he wanted to occupy his room he would have to

sign a new contract. Mr Mehta refused and sought legal advice on the following day. He returned to find that he had been wrongfully evicted.

Mr Mehta in person: Mr Peter Brunner for Mr Ramji.

His Lordship said that the three hallmarks were present: 1) Mr Mehta had exclusive possession.

2) There were monthly payments.

3) There was a residential term.

In addition, reference could be made to these other factors:

4) This was a room in a hotel, although as Mr Mehta pointed out, in a hotel being run in what was still recognisably built as a house.

5) The room was let as a furnished room.

6) Limited services of cleaning and fortnightly bedsheet changing (rightly described as minimal) were provided.

7) It was known to both parties the hotel was in the hands of a receiver and presumably would be sold as a go-slow.

8) It was known to both parties that Mr Mehta wanted long term possession of the room.

9) The agreement was clearly on a special basis, expressly distinguished by the parties from the ordinary arrangements for a hotel room.

10) When Mr Mehta's first claim was pleaded in West London County Court in May 1994 by counsel and solicitors, the pleading was based on a licence and not a tenancy, contrary to Mr Mehta's instructions and subsequently corrected by him on amendment, and the interim injunction was discharged on the ground that a licence was not binding on a purchaser of the hotel; with notice see *Ashburn Apartments v Arnold* [1999] Ch 1.

11) When Mr Mehta's claims were struck out on other occasions at first instance or by the Court of Appeal it was assumed by the court that he had no more than a licence.

But in his Lordship's judgment

12) Mr Mehta sought to rely on requirements of the local authority for long-term letting on the footing that the hotel did not have established user. That was not accepted.

13) In documents prepared shortly before Mr Mehta was evicted he was described as a resident, and a long-term guest. Those documents were relied on by Mr Mehta as evidencing what he had agreed orally with Mr McKeerchar.

14) In his Lordship's judgment, the question whether this was a tenancy or a contractual licence on the facts of the case, was not an easy question to answer and the approach of the House of Lords in *Street v Mountford* was not to apply in such circumstances.

15) His Lordship concluded that when he had been agreed was a contractual licence and not a tenancy, in reaching his conclusion his Lordship said that it might be contrary to Lord Templeman's view that the three hallmarks to which he referred were decisive in favour of a tenancy.

16) His Lordship said that a notice period of four months was reasonable, and that Mr Mehta was entitled under section 27 of the Housing Act 1988 to the statutory damages of £45,000 against Mr Ramji, calculated under section 28.

17) Mr Ramji was also variously liable for the trespass committed by Mr Adams and Mr Nolan, the total of £21,500 to be set off against the statutory damages.

18) Each of Mr Adams and Mr Nolan was liable to Mr Mehta in trespass and as joint tortfeasors for the same common law damage totaling £27,500.

19) His Lordship referred to comments made in *Street v Mountford* on October 17, 1997, by Lord Templeman, when he had refused leave to appeal the decision of Mr Justice Curzon on May 7, 1997 striking out Mr Mehta's action against the bank.

20) It was not improbable that the costs of unnecessary court time had substantially exceeded, in the demands made on the public purse, the cost of simple legal aid if provided to Mr Mehta.

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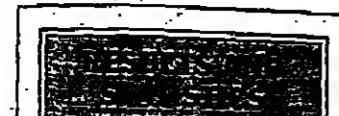
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TODAY

Interim: Fitrone, Haynes Publishing, Monsoon, Wintrust, Finsas, London Economic statistics, home scheduled.

TOMORROW

Interim: Astor Villa, Cassidy Brothers, RT Group, Photo-International, Finsas, IMS Group, London Scottish Bank, Economic statistics: CBI quarterly industrial trends survey.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: Aromascan, Finsas, Northern Rock, Economic statistics: November global, December non-EU trade figures; fourth-quarter mortgage repossessions.

THURSDAY

Interim: Bryant Group, Goodhead, Medias, MISYS, Finsas, Benson Crisp, Cherrington, Economic statistics: December British Bankers' Association mortgage lending.

FRIDAY

Interim: Richards, Finsas, Derby Trust, Partridge Fine Art, Stavert, Zigmund, Economic statistics: Nationwide January house price survey; National Institute of Economic and Social Research quarterly economic review.

	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia S.	2.67	2.50	
Austria Sch.	20.63	16.97	
Belgium Fr.	69.75	55.79	
Cyprus Cyp. S.	2.25	2.00	
Denmark Kr.	0.6724	0.6009	
Dominican R.	11.20	10.31	
Egypt	5.83	5.22	
Finland Mark.	9.93	9.05	
France Fr.	2.953	2.711	
Greece Dr.	486	447	
Hong Kong S.	13.24	12.00	
Iceland Kr.	1.27	1.07	
Indonesia Rup.	16.042	13.042	
Ireland P.	1.782	1.0891	
Israel Sheq.	7.10	6.44	
Japan Yen	201.82	184.29	
Malta	0.661	0.602	
Netherlands Gld.	3.335	3.040	
New Zealand S.	9.47	8.24	
Norway Kr.	12.87	11.82	
Portugal Esc.	298.60	276.57	
S Africa Rand	10.62	9.66	
Spain Pes.	248.88	230.98	
Sweden Kr.	2.440	2.222	
Turkey Lira	550.988	532.02	
USA \$	1.758	1.616	

Bank for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

Northern Rock prepares to kick off season with modest increase

NORTHERN ROCK: The former building society kicks off the bank reporting season on Wednesday and is expected to show a modest improvement in full-year profits — in spite of a slowdown in lending growth.

The bank, which is based in Newcastle upon Tyne, is believed to have a reasonable pipeline of mortgage business for 1999, but analysts will be keen to see whether increased competition from new entrants such as Prudential's Egg and Standard Life Bank will put pressure on Northern Rock's margins.

In 1997, the bank's net interest margin — the key measure of profitability — shrank to 1.69 from 1.92. Investors should watch out for any further reduction.

The City is expecting between £201 million and £209 million for pre-tax profits (£196 million). Earnings per share are projected at about 3p and the dividend is expected to be raised to 12p (10.5p).

LONRHO: The group returns its first year of earnings as a dedicated mining business today and its platinum business is expected to put a shine on the profits. The City, however, is looking for news on whether the company is to take full control of Lonrho Platinum, buying out Gencor's 27 per cent stake in the division.

It is expected to have made £88 million pre-tax profit, against the £101 million it made last year before the sales of Princess Hotels, Dutton, Fonthill and Lonrho Sugar. Analysts are also hoping for it to sell its 33 per cent stake in Ashanti Goldfields and focus on areas where it has full control.

MISYS: The computer services group that recently lost its place in the FTSE 100 index is expected to produce a strong set of interim results on Thursday after shrugging off recent turmoil in its key



WT/ED
Rund Gullif, left, Newcastle United's coach, may wish to swap tips on strategy with fellow Tynesiders Lee Farn, centre, Northern Rock's managing director, and Adam Applegarth, executive director

banking and insurance markets.

The company, which produces risk management software for banks and insurance companies as well as software for the US healthcare market, is expected to

produce pre-tax profits of about £54 million (£19.2 million). Analysts also expect to be reassured about the performance of Medic, the company's healthcare software division. There have been con-

cerns that the division will suffer because of consolidation in the US healthcare market which is seen as a "non-core" area for Misys.

MONSOON: When Monsoon

gives its interim results today all eyes will be on its profit margins. When it floated at 198p a share in February last year, its sceptics were convinced that the profit margins of 19 per cent were not sustainable on a competitive high street. The bears have been proved right on the shares, now a penny above their low at 55p.

There are no projections for the halfway stage, but it should still be on the way towards its fourteenth successive year of higher profits. Still, Christmas trading is expected to be dire, with underlying sales down at least 5 per cent.

OASIS: The retailer gives its Christmas trading statement on Wednesday and is expected to have picked up on anything Monsoon may have lost. The City is less concerned about like-for-like sales figures from the retailer — mainly because it is expected to have had fewer leftovers to flog in the sales. This means its profit margins should hold at the 14 per cent level, after slipping from about 16 per cent earlier.

WH SMITH: The retail group holds its annual meeting on Wednesday. No surprises are expected from its trading statement but shareholders may well ask exactly what it plans to do with the Internet. Richard Handover, chief executive, is becoming increasingly fired up about the Web and has referred to its high street stores as "the bricks and mortar side of the business".

The City now expects it to offer

Internet access, like Dixons — but will this be offered for free? Has it found a telecoms company such as Energo to do all the connection work? How much shareholders' cash will be deployed?

While enchantment with would-be Internet stocks is still dictating its share price, some early answers may emerge.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Greenspan in spotlight

With most of January's main data now issued, analysts' thoughts will turn from the UK towards unease in international markets. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, will hold markets' attention on Thursday with his second set-piece appearance before Congress this month. He is expected to say more on likely effects of Brazil's crisis on the US economy. His view on whether there is any mileage in Argentina's plans to abolish its peso and adopt the US dollar will also be keenly awaited.

Latin American problems are also likely to dominate the world economics jamboree in Davos, beginning on Thursday.

The chances of a swift cut in European interest rates are likely to become clearer with the publication of eurozone inflation data tomorrow. Analysts expect no monthly rise in prices, giving an annual rate of increase in harmonised inflation of 0.8 per cent in December, against 0.9 per cent the previous month. The December eurozone M3 money supply data, also out this week, is expected to show a slight rise. In the annual rate of growth from 4.5 per cent to 4.8 per cent, still well within the European Central Bank's monitoring range.

Japan's woes will be highlighted by figures due this week, with the focus on retail sales data. Wednesday, MMS International, the forecaster, expects sales to show an annual fall of 5.5 per cent in December.

The CBI industrial survey due tomorrow will indicate sentiment among UK firms. Sentiment normally edges up in the new year and analysts expect interest rate cuts also to foster a slight recovery, but the confidence measure will still point to a continuing decline in manufacturing output.

UK trade data due on Wednesday is

expected to show the largest quarterly deficit since the end of the last decade.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Bay Burmah Castrol, Inn Business, Reuters, Sigma, Cranswick, Self NatWest, Blockley, Cenrica, The Sunday Telegraph: Bay PizzaExpress, Newsquest, House of Fraser, Ring, Sigma, Self NatWest, Britannic Assurance, Johnson Fry, The Observer: Bay P&O, Hold Somerfield, Legal & General, Frost, The Express on Sunday: Bay P&O, Prestbury, The Mail on Sunday: Bay Enterprise Oil, Lasmco, Monument Oil.

Hotel groups in legal row after casino is closed

By DOMINIC WALSH

MIDDLEBROUGH has become the unlikely setting for a multimillion-pound legal spat between two of the country's biggest hotel groups.

Thistle Hotels, the owner of the town's Hospitality Inn, is being sued by Stakis, which operates the casino on the ground floor, after closing the hotel down in July for structural repairs and a refurbishment.

David Michels, Stakis chief executive, said that despite Thistle's assurances that the building was safe, he had not felt comfortable about keeping the casino open. "My board decided that if the hotel was closed then our casino couldn't trade there. As a result, we have initiated legal proceedings against Thistle."

Although he declined to comment further, local sources believe Stakis received legal advice that it would be liable for any potential injuries to its casino members. The hotel is not

EU set to approve tax that may cost 110,000 City jobs

By MARTIN WALLER

DEFEAT is looming in Brussels tomorrow for attempts by British MEPs to prevent the introduction of the so-called "widitholding tax" which could cost as many as 110,000 City jobs.

Simon Murphy, MEP for Midlands West, has tabled a series of amendments aimed at mitigating the effects on the financial community of the tax, which requires EU nations to tax investments or savings held by other EU nationals at source.

Such a law is already in place in France and Germany and its proponents, who include Mario Monti, the powerful Single Market Commissioner, say harmonisation across the Union is essential to trade well, albeit at a slightly slower growth rate than previously, and its Living Well health and fitness clubs stormed ahead.

The closure of the casino was one of several one-off factors that dragged down the first-quarter performance of Stakis' casinos. However, hotels continued to trade well, albeit at a slightly slower growth rate than previously, and its Living Well health and fitness clubs stormed ahead.

Mr Murphy, Labour spokesman on economic and monetary affairs, will vote on the Murphy amendments and others tomorrow before drawing up a report to go to the full Parliament for a vote, probably in March.

Although the Committee is

split, it is thought that a majority will reject the amendments, which would exclude income from international bonds and delay any tax until it is adopted by other important financial centres.

If Parliament agrees the tax, the final chance of preventing its introduction lies with the Council of Ministers, because the matter is subject to a veto by any member state. Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has indicated that he will apply this unless there is an exemption for the eurobond market, but opponents are unwilling to rely on such a political solution.

It depends on whether he is prepared to use the veto," said one observer. "The battle isn't finished."

Mr Murphy said he thought that several other EU members might also be prepared to exercise a veto at Council level. Luxembourg also has no withholding tax, and its MEPs have supported the British at Strasbourg.

Relaunch as BLMS gets new chief

BLMS, the fruit machines supplier formerly known as Bass Leisure Machine Services, will today announce the appointment of a new chairman and its formal relaunch Leisure Link Group (Dominic Walsh writes).

The company, which was bought out from Bass for £70 million last summer by Duke Street Capital, has appointed Mike Foster, the former chief executive of the controversial entrepreneur pub chain, as its non-executive chairman.

Mr Foster, chairman of the Brewers & Licensed Retailers Association, has been recruited by Russell Hoyle, Leisure Link's chief executive. Mr Hoyle said: "This appointment positions Leisure Link as one of the key suppliers to the retail on-trade."

Starbucks poaches property director from Arcadia

By FRASER NELSON

STARBUCKS, the £3 billion US coffee shop chain, has poached Arcadia's retail property director to spearhead its push into the UK.

Tim Morris, who manages the 1,600 stores in Arcadia's Burton-to-Top Shop portfolio, will join in March after working out his notice.

His job will be to scour the United Kingdom for sites to meet Starbucks' ambitious plans to expand its stores from 125 to 250 throughout the country within four years. It has

2,000,000 worldwide.

Scott Svenson, who became head of Starbucks UK after selling his Seattle Coffee Company for £49 million in April last year, said: "We're now building our team quite aggressively and we want to have completed it when we start expanding. Tim will be looking after the real estate side."

Although London is brimming with coffee shops, Mr

Svenson believes there is massive scope in Scotland and the North of England.

The 62 remaining Seattle Coffee Company shops are in the process of changing into Starbucks over the next few months.

Although Mr Morris has been with Arcadia since it was part of the Burton Group, he was not a main board director.

Arcadia said he was part of a team of three that looked after the retail property side.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

PRESENTS

Valentine's Day

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Search for the best proves a fluid task

From Telewest to Scottish Power, the FTSE 100 is dominating Britain, says Jason Nissé

NAPOLEON famously said that Britain was a nation of shopkeepers. He was implying that small businesses formed the backbone of this island nation, defining the British psyche as a country of individuals, who like to work for themselves, create their own enterprises and develop them. A nation of entrepreneurs, if you will.

A cursory look at the London stock market might make one think that this has all changed. An institution developed shortly before Napoleon came to power is now dominated by a handful of increasingly powerful companies.

UK-listed groups such as BP Amoco, Glaxo Wellcome, AstraZeneca, Vodafone and Diageo stand among the largest companies in the world. The Stock list of the top 50 companies in Europe has more UK-based members (13) than members from any other country. The members of the FTSE 100 list of the UK's top companies account for more than 80 per cent of the value of the London stock market. We are increasingly becoming less a nation of shopkeepers than a nation of employees.

That is why, just under 18 months ago, *The Times* started a unique analysis of the 100 leading corporations in Britain. The Corporate Profile series is aimed at getting to the heart of these giant companies that dominate our lives and our investment decisions, understanding what makes them tick, what is their "unique selling proposition", how well they deliver to the objectives that they set themselves and how they interact with other organisations and the community at large.

The board structure is analysed, as are the market's views of the companies and a rating, out of 100, looking at issues such as how well the directors are paid, how the shares have performed and whether the company has a well explained and executed ethical policy.

At the end of this mammoth



Making their mark: Marjorie Scardino, a *Business Woman of the Year* award winner, with, clockwise, from top left: Ian Robinson, chief executive at Scottish Power, which came out on top; John Browne, of BP Amoco; Paul Chisholm, of COLT Telecom; and Tony Illsley, of Telewest. Rentokil Initial, the pest controller, had a low rating on ethical expression

task which started in October 1997 with Pearson, which was just at the start of the Marjorie Scardino revolution, there should be an answer to the question: "What is Britain's best corporation?"

At the moment, the series is pretty much at its halfway stage. This might seem strange given that nearly 70 companies have been analysed, but the

FTSE 100 is a dynamic list, recalculated every three months and so changes quite dramatically. For example, Sema Group, profiled in November, no longer merits its place in the FTSE 100, thanks to the decline in the value of the company. (Our analysis of Sema was quite dismissive, questioning whether its corporate structure under Piero Bonelli was open

enough and wondering where growth would be coming from for the computer systems company.) Other well-known companies to lose their FTSE status in recent months have included Nycomed Amersham and British Land, while the likes of COLT Telecom (which was valued at only £500 million when this series started and now is worth more than £7 billion),

Telewest and WPP have all risen from the ranks to take their place at the market's top table.

Then there has been corporate activity. There will always be bids and deals, but the past few years have seen some of the most hectic dealmaking in British history. There are many reasons for this. Europe and the US have entered an era of low inflation and low growth, while

THE VERDICTS		
COMPANY	SCORE	DATE
Scottish Power	90	Oct 27 1997
Shell	79	Oct 27 1997
British Gas	78	Dec 22 1997
BAA	78	Dec 22 1997
BP Amoco	78	Dec 22 1997
Legal & General	78	Dec 22 1997
Glaxo Wellcome	77	Dec 22 1997
Century Schenckes	77	Dec 22 1997
Amersham	76	Dec 22 1997
Boots	76	Dec 22 1997
Marjorie Scardino	75	Dec 22 1997
British Aerospace	75	Dec 22 1997
British Energy	73	Dec 22 1997
British Petroleum	73	Dec 22 1997
Hellmex	73	Dec 22 1997
Telewest	72	Dec 22 1997
Nycomed Amersham	72	Dec 22 1997
United News Media	72	Dec 22 1997
Heys	72	Dec 22 1997
General Accident	70	Dec 22 1997
Prudential	69	Dec 22 1997
Diageo	68	Dec 22 1997
WPP	67	Dec 22 1997
Century Schenckes	67	Dec 22 1997
Rolls-Royce	67	Dec 22 1997
Marjorie Scardino	67	Dec 22 1997
ICL	66	Dec 22 1997
British Telecom	65	Dec 22 1997
Armstrong	65	Dec 22 1997
Hellmex	65	Dec 22 1997
Sema	65	Dec 22 1997
Domino's	65	Dec 22 1997
Abbey National	65	Dec 22 1997
Verizon	64	Dec 22 1997
Alcatel	64	Dec 22 1997
BT	63	Dec 22 1997
Telewest	62	Dec 22 1997
Marjorie Scardino	62	Dec 22 1997
General Accident	62	Dec 22 1997
BP Amoco	61	Dec 22 1997
British Airways	61	Dec 22 1997
Verizon	60	Dec 22 1997
Royal & Sunalliance	59	Dec 22 1997
Marjorie Scardino	58	Dec 22 1997
Safeway	58	Dec 22 1997
Verizon	57	Dec 22 1997
United Utilities	54	Dec 22 1997
Marjorie Scardino	54	Dec 22 1997
BAT Industries	49	Dec 22 1997

* before the merger with General Accident.
** before the demerger into financial services and tobacco and the subsequent deals to create AlliedZurich and merge BAT with Rothmans.

when it was analysed on December 15, 1997, it was a large, unwieldy tobacco and insurance conglomerate. We predicted that plans to demerge the company might enhance what had been a pretty poor share performance. How right this proved. The financial services side broke away and merged with Zurich Reinsurance, prompting a dramatic rerating of the company that nearly doubled its market value. The cigarette business has also thrived, striking a deal earlier this month to merge with Rothmans and create the world's second-largest tobacco group.

So, of the companies profiled, which came out well and which badly? On the simple mathematical verdict, the best and worst are clear. Scottish Power — which was then, irritatingly, called ScottishPower — stands head and shoulders above everyone else with a score of 81%, thanks to a ten out of ten for its pay policy and ratings for strength of brand and innovation. At the time we praised its ability to size up situations and act quickly, something shown when it moved to buy PacificCorp, the US utility.

Surprisingly, perhaps, Shell and British Gas also obtained high ratings. They showed that clear and well-defined policies on remuneration can differentiate a company operating in difficult markets. Rentokil Initial might ponder this; its low rating being partially because of a two for ethical expression.

And at the bottom? There is a clear loser — Telewest Communication. It arrived in the FTSE 100 thanks to its deal to acquire General Cable and so make it by a short head, the largest cable TV company in the UK. Our analysis pointed out its capacity to disappoint, to fail to exploit the market opportunities and, with a mere one out of ten for ethical expression, its failure to define clearly what is expected of its employees. To be fair to Telewest, though, it had been through a lot of turmoil and its latest chief executive, Tony Illsley, had yet to get to grips with the company.

Given that the next lowest score was for BAT Industries, it is clear that companies can redeem themselves by swift and decisive action.

In the next few weeks some of the best-performing companies on the stock market will be profiled, such as Kingfisher, one of the few retailers to rise above the Christmas gloom, and Orange, a standard bearer for the telecom revolution.

BP Amoco and Shell aim to wrongfoot the greens

Carl Mortished reports on pragmatic moves by two leading oil companies to maintain growth while disarming environmental campaigners

A judge in Anchorage, Alaska, will be asked tomorrow to stop BP Amoco from building an ice road six miles into the Arctic Ocean, the first stage in the oil company's development of the Northstar oilfield.

It is a large project involving the creation of an island in the Beaufort Sea and the oil industry's old adversary, Greenpeace, is trying to stop the development as part of its campaign against fossil fuels, thought to be a cause of global warming.

This week Greenpeace initiated a legal manoeuvre in the Alaskan courts, asking for a "stay" of the roadworks, claiming that BP lacked the

necessary permits. The legal dispute is highly technical, based on the interpretation of the scope of BP's existing permits.

Not surprisingly, the oil company is dismissive of Greenpeace's tactics. Greenpeace is fighting an uphill struggle in Alaska where its views are not popular. The collapse in the oil price is hurting the State's main industry and the Governor, with the help of big brother oil, is urging the federal Government to open a major wildlife refuge to development. Today BP will announce a round of redundancies in Alaska — not a good time to be fighting a battle to stop investment.

You might think that a cri-

sis in the global energy industry would be a boon for Greenpeace and its campaign on climate change. An oil glut is a useful argument to persuade the public that current investment in fossil fuels is already excessive.

Unfortunately for Greenpeace, it is finding the going tough. A campaign last summer against oil exploration West of Shetland failed to generate much publicity and membership is in decline. From a peak of 4.8 million worldwide in 1991, Greenpeace International lost almost two million supporters in five years. And in the year to January 1998 membership plunged a further 14 per cent from 2.9 million to 2.5 million.

Greenpeace campaigners regard this sort of rhetoric as a cynical publicity stunt. Melanie Duchin, the organisation's spokesman in Anchorage said: "Their activities up here make that hard to swallow. BP has shown time and again that it will do just anything to open up new oil reserves."

Until recently, today, oil companies round the world are cutting back their exploration, not for the sake of wildlife but because it makes little economic sense to pump oil at a cost of \$12 per barrel when the market price is \$11. An industry crisis tends to concentrate minds and no surprise then to find that BP's approach to environmental issues is highly pragmatic. Mr Chase puts it simply: "If our industry is judged as too damaging to the environment, it will go out of business."

When you are Britain's largest company, going out of business is not an option and Mr Chase is impatient with those who seek a U-turn. "I cannot debate with people who say get rid of hydrocarbons and invest in solar. We are building a business but you cannot wave a wand and get there."

BP's strategy was all about getting there before the politicians are hijacked by the



Greenpeace activists confront a seismic testing vessel in the Beaufort Sea, off Alaska, where BP Amoco plans an ice road

green lobby and introduce vicious new taxes. They desperately want to be the solution, not the problem. In addition to seed capital in a solar cell business, the company has been developing an internal carbon emissions trading network, in an attempt to build a system that can be offered to the Government as a workable model.

However, the oil company's efforts at developing emissions trading received a setback when Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge's report into methods of reducing carbon emissions rejected the proposed trading permits as too complex a system. The report favoured taxes.

Undeterred, Mr Chase upped the ante by announcing that BP was in favour of tax, but only the right sort of tax. Taxes on petrol have done little to curb consumption and much to boost inflation. BP wants the Government to set verifiable emission targets, with incentives (tax breaks) for meeting them or penalties for failing to comply. "I personally believe positive motivation works better, but it could be done with penalties."

Stealing your opponent's

ideas and working them to

your advantage is a strategy that has worked well for the Government. But for BP the stakes are much higher. Unlike the Labour Government, BP is playing a long-term game, a couple of Parliaments is the development cycle of just one medium-sized oilfield. As Mr Chase puts it: "Anyone who thinks you can operate at the froth and bubble level in this debate is stupid."

The oil companies are fighting for their right to be growth industries — if they fail to address the climate challenge and find solutions, they will survive but decline into dull utilities, selling yesterday's product.

BP's approach is endorsed by Shell, but the vast bulk of the oil industry, mainly American, is pouring millions of pounds into a campaign against the Green lobby. Friends of the Earth reckon that the gap is widening between the BP/Shell camp and the rest, represented by the Global Climate Coalition, with core backing from Exxon.

A spokesman from Friends of the Earth reckons that BP is not selling greenwash. "It is important to suggest that some form of carbon tax is inevitable."

The battle has only just begun and the \$10 price of oil, painful as it is for the Excons of this world, gives consumers little incentive to support alternatives.

But a glut of oil prices at uneconomic levels and weak demand from the consumer has caused some industry executives to wonder about the long-term future of the oil industry. As Friends of the Earth sees it: "These are crazy business people. They want to stay one step ahead of the game."

GOVETT STRATEGIC INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the register of Preference Shareholders will be closed for transfers from close of business on 28 January 1999 and will not reopen if the Preference Shares are cancelled and repaid in the manner described in the Circular sent by the Company to the Ordinary Shareholders and Preference Shareholders dated 26 November 1998.

Dated 25 January 1999

By order of the Board

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Marshall: favoured taxes

task

On the face of it, you wouldn't think that current events in Argentina could have much bearing on the key economic issue facing Britain, but they do. For several years, Argentina has maintained a rigid link with the peso and the dollar, but now she is considering abandoning her currency altogether and simply adopting the dollar — so-called "dollarisation". At a stroke, the peso would disappear. There would be no exchange rate and no Argentine monetary policy. All prices would be in dollars and dollars would be held in wallets and purses. From a monetary standpoint, Argentina would become part of the United States. Now do you see? Argentina is considering doing what Britain would do if she joined the euro.

In fact, hers would be an even bolder step. For the countries of euroland pool their monetary sovereignty. Argentina would simply surrender hers. The difference lies in the fact that the countries of euroland have a say in monetary policy, and the European Central

Bank (ECB) makes decisions in pursuit of their collective interests. Moreover, they share in the profits accruing from the issue of euros and coins. Argentina would enjoy neither of these advantages.

So why should she even consider such a step? Over the past 30 years the world has operated with a wide variety of different currency regimes. But in modern conditions of vast international capital movements, the choice seems to be collapsing to the two extremes — absolutely fixed exchange rates or floating ones. The myriad variations in between, such as adjustable pegs, crawling pegs, ERMs, and the like, are easily swept away in a torrent of market speculation.

The exchange-rate system that Argentina currently uses is the currency board, which is about the closest you can get to absolute rigidity of exchange rates, without

quite having it. Under this system, which is also operative in Hong Kong, a country gives up all independent monetary policy. Its ability to issue notes is precisely limited by changes in its foreign currency reserves.

Compared with completely abandoning the domestic currency altogether, this has two economic advantages. First, the currency board makes a profit. Whereas the notes it issues carry no interest and are virtually costless to print, it earns interest on the foreign currency deposits and securities that it holds as reserves. Second, because the national currency still exists, the government retains the power to break the apparently fixed relationship by either devaluing or floating.

But here is the supreme irony. If the market believes that a country may use that flexibility, then it will exact a price. In that case, the flexi-

bility may not be worth having. This is Argentina's predicament. Despite the fact that it has stuck faithfully to the currency board system, because of its history the markets are still suspicious. Accordingly, interest rates have to be higher, even though pesos are freely interchangeable with dollars at a fixed rate.

What to do? There is an argument for taking this nasty medicine and suffering, thereby demonstrating commitment to the market's suspicion that they may return to their bad old ways. Britain is in very different situation. Long-term interest rates tell the story. Far from imposing a premium on Britain, the markets are close to accepting a discount. True, British ten-year yields are about half a point higher than their German or French equivalents, (although they are half a point lower than their US equivalents). But once our short-term interest rates have converged on the eurolevel, then our ten-year rates may well be lower than the rates ruling in euroland. Indeed, this is already true for 30-year bonds, where British rates are almost half a point below their euro equivalents.

What presents Argentina and

convergence of British rates upon their euro equivalents is explained by the dominance of the view that we will eventually join the single currency. But there is another explanation. The system of an inflation target and an independent MPC has operated successfully. By contrast, the arrangements for the ECB look seriously flawed. At best, they are completely untested. We simply do not know how the institutional relationships governing the euro will hold up in the teeth of the difficult circumstances that look increasingly likely for the years ahead.

If Argentina gives up the peso, she would be giving up the legacy of monetary failure, and a rating that reflects that, in favour of the monetary competence and international rating of the Federal Reserve. tried and tested over many years. By contrast, if we were soon to join the euro, we would be giving up a monetary regime that is actually rated highly by the markets in favour of something which, for all the hype and windy rhetoric, is still a pig in a poke.

Ministers disagree over £1bn air traffic sell-off

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, AVIATION CORRESPONDENT

A DISPUTE has broken out between John Prescott and Gordon Brown over plans for a £1 billion sale of the air traffic control service.

The Chancellor is under pressure from the Deputy Prime Minister to delay the sale by up to two years to ensure that taxpayers obtain the best value from the disposal.

Mr Brown is understood to be anxious to stage the sell-off next year, but he has been told that doubts over a new £475 million air traffic control centre are likely to reduce the value of the sale, possibly by half.

Mr Prescott fears that long-running problems over the new centre are likely to cut the sale price because of doubts among potential investors.

Whitehall officials suggest that delaying the sale until after the next general election, probably in 2002, would ensure a better price, coinciding with the expected opening of the new computerised centre at Swanwick, Hampshire.

The Swanwick headquarters, originally scheduled to open in 1996, will house the world's most advanced computerised air traffic control system, but it has been beset by technical problems, which have caused a string of delays.

The sale of 51 per cent of the air traffic service, which handles 1.6 million flights a year over Britain, is the biggest sell-off proposed by ministers. However, there are fears in the City and Whitehall that investors will not bid for the service unless given cast-iron assurances that the new centre will operate smoothly, and that taxpayers will pick up the cost of failures.

Mr Prescott's worries about market value are particularly acute because Mr Brown has agreed that sale proceeds will be earmarked for transport

projects. Mr Prescott is said to be alarmed by the risk of a "dud" sale hitting his transport plans. His fears follow National Audit Office criticism of the transport department for costing taxpayers up to £1.5 billion in the Conservative Government's rushed sale of Railtrack.

The Institute of Actuaries says that ministers must give details of risks attached to the new centre if taxpayers are to get "value for money". Chris Lewin, chairman of its corporate finance committee, said:

"There is a lot of information about certain risks of the new centre, but it is not very clear how much of those risks would impact on shareholders.

It is unreasonable to expect investors to pick up the burden of problems caused by the public sector."

Ministers plan to publish a draft Bill within months to permit a sell-off, but John Reid, Transport Minister, has suggested that the sale could be delayed by two years to get a better value on the stock market.

The Civil Aviation Authority wants a swift partial sale because, it says, £100 million a year needs to be invested in air traffic control.

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John Prescott fears "dud" sale of air traffic control service

Scottish Equitable rises

BY CHRIS AYRES

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE, the Edinburgh pensions and investment company, yesterday said that it had enjoyed a 27 per cent rise in new premiums to £21 billion during 1998.

The results came as the company started its restructuring into three divisions: pensions and investments, asset man-

agement, and international holdings. The restructured company will trade under the name of Aegon UK.

Total annualised premiums income rose 19 per cent to £373 million, and new annual premiums rose 21 per cent to £179 million. New single premiums rose 28 per cent to £1.9 billion.

David Henderson, Scottish Equitable's chief executive,

said: "Significant growth from the raised platform we set ourselves from last year was always going to be a challenge and I am delighted with the results." He added that the company's pensions business had continued to deliver outstanding growth. "I am still very bullish on the prospects for further growth through this route," he said.

British Steel seeks action on dumped imports

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH STEEL will this week step up pressure on the Government over cheap steel imports flooding into the UK. It will warn MPs that dumping of underpriced steel by countries such as Bulgaria, India, South Africa and Taiwan is jeopardising British jobs.

The company is already cutting up to 12,000 jobs to try to make its steel more competitive as it attempts to combat sterling's strength and fallout from Asia's economic crisis. Its call for action comes after a protest about steel imports to the Department of Trade and Industry by 28 local authorities representing steel producing areas.

The European Commission has begun anti-dumping investigations. British Steel has urged the DTI to put pressure on the Commission.

British Steel will also tell MPs that a carbon energy tax would imperil its competitiveness and threaten jobs. It will say that its position is further threatened because four of its main competitors — steel producers in China, Brazil, India and South Korea — are outside the Kyoto agreement on greenhouse gas reductions.

City analysts last week began raising estimates of British Steel's losses. The group is expected to be red by as much as £200 million for its year to March after being battered by sterling's strength and falling steel prices in Europe. However, prices are thought to have flattened now. More details on job losses are expected soon from Avesta-Sheffield, the troubled stainless steel plant in which British Steel has a majority stake.

Insurer pens policy to cover songwriters

BY CHRIS AYRES

LORD LLOYD-WEBBER may not have to worry about legal actions over the authorship of his work any more. A specialist British insurance company, Robertson Taylor, has launched a new policy for famous songwriters who fear being sued for plagiarism.

The policy, brought out to coincide with the opening of the music industry's annual Midem exhibition in Cannes, is designed to cover the back-catalogues of well known songwriters against a rapidly rising number of plagiarism claims.

The increase in litigation has been blamed partly on modern musical methods such as "sampling", where clips from old records are cut together to create new songs. Many record companies refuse to take any responsibility for plagiarism, leaving individual songwriters to fight their own cases.

The launch of the policy follows complaints by some of Britain's leading songwriters



Sting: claims law is abused

— including Sir Tim Rice, Sir Elton John, Sting, Phil Collins and Mick Jagger — that the right to legal defence for the theft of a piece of music is being abused.

They claim that famous songwriters often settle even ludicrous claims because of the enormous costs involved in fighting a legal battle. The most recent case came when a virtually unknown American

Businesses lift spending on arts to £115m a year

BY JASON NISSE

BRITISH businesses spent more than £115 million on sponsorship and other partnerships with arts organisations in the year to last September, figures released today will show.

The spending is up by nearly £20 million on the previous year's figures and represents a 24 per cent leap in corporate sponsorship of arts events, such as the Momet exhibition now on at the Royal Academy with backing from Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm.

Figures released by the Association for Business Sponsor-

ship of the Arts (ABSA) in its annual report show that corporate activity is rising in almost all areas of the arts.

Corporate sponsorship rose from £15.3 million to £63.4 million, with BT, Orange and Ernst & Young among firms leading the way. Sponsorship of capital projects, such as EDS's backing of the Lowry Centre in Manchester, rose from £16.9 million to £19.4 million.

Colin Tweedy, chief executive of the ABSA, said: "Despite the threat of recession, the corporate sector is continuing to recognise that arts are relevant to business."

Artistic licensing, page 46

Corporate donations also rose sharply, from £6 million to £9 million.

London continues to win the lion's share of money coming from £15.3 million to £63.4 million, in second place, and far behind, was Scotland, with £11.3 million.

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Artistic licensing, page 46

1998 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Ytd %	P/E	1998 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Ytd %	P/E	1998 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Ytd %	P/E
3%	6%	24.00 10.80p	1	+ 2%	-	-	8.6%	2.4%	5.65 Dorkaster	41	-	-	3.2	11.0	4.04 Jumbo Int'l	20%	- 2	-	-	
171	241	12.20 AFA Systems	495	+ 2%	-2%	-	15%	12.20 Dorec Petrolam	19	-	-	52.1	3.1	6.73 Astra Group	10%	-	-	-		
133	169	12.20 AMCI Com	85	+ 1%	-1%	-	15%	12.20 Dorec Petrolam	17	-	-	15.5	1.1	1.13 Astra Int'l	13%	-	-	10.1		
157	174	12.20 AMCI Com	185	+ 1%	-1%	-	15%	12.20 Dorec Petrolam	17	-	-	15.5	1.1	1.13 Astra Int'l	13%	-	-	10.1		
207	215	12.20 AMCI Com	185	+ 1%	-1%	-	15%	12.20 Dorec Petrolam	17	-	-	15.5	1.1	1.13 Astra Int'l	13%	-	-	10.1		
67	69	6.01 Arival Group	27	+ 1%	-1%	-	15%	2.74 Dingle Head	10%	-	-	14.9	1.1	1.02 Arival Group	15%	-	-	4.37		
57	62	6.01 Arival Group	27	+ 1%	-1%	-	15%	2.74 Dingle Head	10%	+ 4%	-	14.9	1.1	1.02 Arival Group	15%	-	-	4.37		
57	62	6.01 Arival Group	27	+ 1%	-1%	-	15%	2.74 Dingle Head	10%	+ 4%	-	14.9	1.1	1.02 Arival Group	15%	-	-	4.37		
57	62	6.01 Arival Group	27	+ 1%	-1%	-	15%	2.74 Dingle Head	10%	+ 4%	-	14.9	1.1	1.02 Arival Group	15%	-	-	4.37		
102	107	6.01 Arival Group	408	+ 1%	-1%	-	15%	15.20 Doblets Garden	20	+ 5%	-	14.0	1.2	1.23 Doblets Garden	15%	-	-	4.37		
102	107	6.01 Arival Group	408	+ 1%	-1%	-	15%	15.20 Doblets Garden	20	+ 5%	-	14.0	1.2	1.23 Doblets Garden	15%	-	-	4.37		
102	107	6.01 Arival Group	408	+ 1%																

Monet makes the world go round for galleries

Kimberly McDonald reports on the growing commercial exploitation of artistic licensing

An unprecedented throng of visitors descended upon the Royal Academy last week for the opening of its Monet exhibition and the chance to bask in the vitality of Impressionist paintings, to savour the fusion of light in Monet's water lily pictures and, of course, to buy a nifty Monet refrigerator magnet for £2.95.

For museums, merchandising has become big business. While the art purists dine on the aesthetic feast that is Monet, the ills at the Academy ring merrily from sales of everything from beginner paint sets for children to jewellery and ceramics. But the need to generate revenues outside the building has spawned a growing interest in art licensing. After all, who could have guessed that the Royal couple Victoria and Albert could end up alongside Coca-Cola as a lucrative and exploitable brand name? Or that John Lennon's whimsical drawings of animals and celestial objects would grace baby's bathtubs around the world?

What was once considered a declassé function that diluted cultural value is increasingly being seen as a vital part of how artists across the globe and Britain's public museums make up for diminishing funds.

Keeping London's museums and art galleries going costs the taxpayer approaching £200 million a year. The Victoria & Albert museum, by general consent the world's finest display of decorative art and design, has been allocated some £29 million for the current tax year but is losing about £1 million a year in government funding. The British Museum gets £33 million and the Science Museum £20 million. The Royal Academy is hoping that Monet mania will clear its £500,000 debts. All underlines pressure to find alternative funds.

Last year V&A Enterprises, the museum's trading arm, handed over £950,000 in profits to the museum, a 25 per cent rise on the previous year. Its income from licensing ventures rose 87



Revenue is rising from commercial spin-offs during events such as the Monet exhibition

per cent. Those sorts of numbers are hard to ignore. And as government funding continues to dwindle, most industry executives admit that further commercialisation is inevitable. "Even if you wanted to turn back time to the days when museums were only about the artistic experience, you'd be living a pipe dream," said Michael Cass, president of V&A Enterprises.

At present V&A, the most aggressive in its commercial pursuits, has some 97 licenses.

Nearly half are in North America but they span 17 other countries. In Britain the V&A label has attracted companies such as Colefax and Fowler (furnishing), Dorma (bedding), Coats Viyella (clothing), Rydax (carpets) and Fired Earth (paints).

Last year, Marks & Spencer promoted the V&A name in preference to its own ubiquitous St Michael for the first time on a range of lingerie, nighties and toilettries. Others to try commercial pursuits include the National Trust, in interior decoration, the Tate and Pret A Manger, collaborating on the Greenwich, and the British Museum with its Heathrow shop.

Britain's move picks up on a trend that has been gathering steam in America for several years. US art licensing revenues rose 3 per cent last year to \$5.4 billion (about £3.2 billion). William Carter, the 134-year-old manufacturer of baby apparel, now owned by Investcorp, recently paid an undisclosed amount for permission to use Lennon's drawings on its pastel-toned pyjamas, bedding, wallpaper, and other products for newborns to six-year-olds. Lennon is said to have come up with the drawings to help to teach his son, Sean, to read.

With corporate brands responsible for the single biggest segment of licensing, American museum executives expect more collaborations between corporations and artists.

Other estates to profit from art licensing include those of Miles Davis, Frank Sinatra, and Geoffrey Matthews, managing director of The National Gallery Publications.

The V&A's commercial success has inspired others to take on similar projects. The National Gallery is negotiating a print

pose licence and plans to get into greeting cards, according to Matthews. The challenge, however, is to not devalue the

process. "The art winds up on neckties, coffee cups and T-shirts among other products. Britons are catching up fast with their American brothers and sisters with exploiting art and the institutions," said Geoffrey Matthews, managing director of The National Gallery Publications.

Now that debate has included the notion that licensing can be tastefully done if museums are selective in the types of products to which they lend their name. The way in which the original work is interpreted in a product matters too. "You must get the mix right so as to create

an aura of quality," said Cass.

"Licensing has gained a certain amount of legitimacy, away from what artists thought of as a schlocky sort of mercenary, low-rent use of art, toward becoming part of a life style," said Martin Brochstein, executive editor of *The Licensing Letter*, an industry newsletter in the US.

And while Picasso, Tchirikov and mug-mania continues its upward trajectory in the US, museum executives remain convinced that the British ethos will not allow the commercialisation of art to reach the same level here. "What's going on in America is regarded as a bit tacky," said Andrew Morris, managing director of the Business Design Centre. "There's still a strong belief in Britain that originality should be preserved and cherished and not demeaned."

"The mass merchandising in the US is more extreme because there is less government support of the arts and culturally there are fewer inhibitions about commercial exploitation. We still have a bit more reverence in the matter," said Cass.

Britons' voracious appetite for pure, unadulterated art was proved this week by the response to the Monet in the 20th Century exhibition. The Royal Academy said it had pre-sold a record 157,000 timed-tickets, in an effort to control crowds once the exhibition is open, to the public, at a record £9.

Though some art institutions are showing a willingness to dabble in the commercial world, no individual British artist has touched that ground. Even when art purists will not rule out the possibility, "I certainly couldn't say it would never happen, especially given the Americanisation of the UK," said Morris.

In America, artists came to regard licensing in a less negative light in part because museums helped to fuel an industry of posters, greeting cards and other home products generated by retrospectives and other shows of important art—the very same thing that is happening now in Britain.

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Absurd plot but ideas developed nicely

I was certainly not the only critic with serious reservations about Stephen Poliakoff's *Shooting The Pies* (BBC2), which slobbered its way to some sort of resolution last night. But I confess I was a little startled by the degree of admiration this enigmatic three-parter elicited from many who saw it, including friends whose judgments I usually trust.

I began to feel a little churlish, especially since, on reflection, I could think of few, if any, dramatists since Dennis Potter who attempt to use television in such an original and provocative way. Poliakoff still thinks television can be a grown-up artform, tackling radical questions about art, culture, life, the Universe and everything. He is an heir to the tradition of Huw Wheldon, and I suppose we should be grateful for that alone.

And it was partly because Poliakoff carries this torch that I found the first episode so exasper-

ating. The play kept assuming my credibility, throwing up fences too high to jump. Why were the new American owners of the picture library only corresponding about their plans to sell the collection, close down the business and redesign the interior of the historic building it was housed in, with one member of the staff there, who wasn't even in overall control?

Why had Oswald Bates hidden this correspondence from his colleagues? How did this outfit get permission to rip out the ornate interior of what was obviously a listed building? (It wasn't meant to be that special, why film it at Ham House?) Did no architects or designers visit the place to plan this re-fit or were they just going to make it up as they went along? Why didn't Marilyn Truman hit the phone as soon as the Americans arrived?

I won't bother you with more of these questions, but there were

dozens of them, and none got proper answers. I spent the whole first episode balking at things, and balking seriously interferes with suspension of disbelief.

Well, it is art, I suppose, not to be taken too literally, and this was, philosophically, an ambitious piece. Poliakoff was articulating several thematic strands, each one admirable in its way. There was the inherent wonder of the photographic archive seen as an almost magical repository of truths about human experience, an inedible mine of unexpected connections and revelations. Last night, the collection revealed to the American businessman Christopher Anderson (Liam Cunningham) that his grandmother was a promiscuous, drug-abusing probable murderer, for instance. *Balk*. Excuse me, it's a metaphor. We all have something dark in our past, apparently.

Paul Hoggart knows that. It was the Birtian

Beeb that flopped the *Hulton* collection: hard-headed Americans bought it. Still, the general point is worth repeating.

Then came the psychological effects of redundancy, forced redeployment, downsizing, constructive dismissal. Above all, the question of homogenised "human resources" management even to recognise idiosyncratic talent or wayward genius, let alone value it. All this was grippingly captured in Timothy Spall's *Oswald*, whose lightning lateral mind and literally photographic memory could pick out the same face reappearing in snaps separated by decades and thousands of miles. *Balk*. *Oops*, sorry.

Poliakoff's other genius lies in the texture of the drama, full of unusual nuances, each scene constantly twisting away from its apparent course. This can be annoyingly self-conscious. The characters

other, playing games with the audience's expectations. But intense emotion creeps up unexpectedly, about things we don't normally find particularly moving.

It elicits riveting performances (Lindsay Duncan was spellbinding). The slow, atmospheric direction is hypnotic. When he does not drift into absurdity, nothing touches the quality of his writing. If only I could stop that balking.

It is an unbeknown rule of costume drama that the stately homes of the aristocracy are bathed in brilliant gleaming light, despite being lit only by candles; whereas big cities are shrouded in perpetual darkness. In the first of three *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (BBC2), last night, Revolutionary Paris appears to be going through some kind of nuclear winter.

At least there is no need to worry about balking. This is pure corn-

escapist nonsense. The pre-publicity tells us that "that damned elusive Pimpernel" is an 18th-century James Bond, a point echoed in the incidental music. He even had the miniature secret agent's gadget kit concealed about his person. There's a dash of Biggles, and since the saviour of the French aristocracy acts the effete but witty top, a dally of Oscar Wilde. Richard E. Grant obviously loves every minute. And with one bound our hero was free of anything resembling artistic pretensions.

But then life is easier if you don't think too much about certain matters. Such as whether your hamster feels shame, or the goldfish is clinically depressed. *Do Animals have Emotions*, the second in the *Animal Minds* series (BBC2), explained that baboons get stressed, ulcers, macaws get jealous and chickens don't like standing on wire mesh. I swear I saw the cat balking at the television.

BBC1

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (32222)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (78851)
8.45 *The Vanessa Show* (T) (576308)
9.05 *News: Regional News: Weather* (T) (784229)
11.00 *Real Rooms* (762670)
11.25 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (T) (763729)
11.55 *News: Regional News: Weather* (T) (1855125)
12.00pm *Call My Bluff* (49090)
12.35 *The Weather Show* (T) (5598622)
1.00 *One O'Clock News: Weather* (T) (85089)
1.30 *Regional News: Weather* (8634329)
1.40 *Neighbours* (T) (5623545)
2.05 *Innside* (T) (7318019)
2.55 *Body Spies* New series. Daily programme, following the efforts of keep-fit spies to stick to new year resolutions. (5639470)
3.25 *Children's BBC: Playdays* (T) (747354)
3.45 *The Little Pet Shop* (9718477)
3.55 *Bogger and Badger* (9220767) 4.00
Pocket Dragon Adventures (9672477)
4.15 *Rugrats* (1119800) 4.35 *Misery Guts* (1368336) 5.00 *Newround* (5105090)
5.15 *Blues Peter* (6245545)
5.35 *Neighbours* (T) (565293)
6.00 *Six O'Clock News: Weather* (T) (941)
6.30 *Regional News Magazine* (293)
7.00 *This is Your Life* (T) (7800)
7.20 *Watchdog* *Healthcheck Report* on drugs available via the Internet without a prescription (T) (477)
6.00 *EastEnders* Great fights to clear his name (T) (6748)
8.30 *Wanted* Dad Alan seems to be the only member of the family missing out on a healthy sex life. Comedy, starring George Cole and Kevin McCarthy (T) (85883)
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather* (T) (7799)
9.30 *Paddington* Green Aspiring restauranteur Sami Vassari begins to wish he hadn't forsaken a law career, an opening-day approaches and his building fall behind schedule (T) (69800)
7.30 *Paranormal* Investigation into the alarming rise in cases of food poisoning (T) (6034549)
10.40 *Match of the Day* Highlights of Oxford United v Chelsea in the FA Cup (T) (285361)
11.25 *By the Sword* (1991) Premieres. An ex-fencing champion (F. Murray Abraham) starts work as caretaker at a sword-fighting academy run by the son of a man he killed in a duel. Directed by Jeremy Paul Kagan (T) (754651)
12.50pm *Weather* (2284341)
12.55 BBC News 24 (8423713)

BBC2

7.00am *Children's BBC Breakfast Show: The Family Ness* (T) (8444467) 7.05 *Teletubbies* (2675862) 7.30 *Secret Squirt* and Co (3527468) 7.55 *Blue Peter* (5501816) 8.20 *Police Dot: Shorts* (5501816) 8.30 *Romuald the Reindeer* (8937532) 8.45 *Roald Dahl's Daytime On Two: Space Ark* (7708554) 9.10 *Short Circuit* (6122119) 9.30 *Writing and Pictures* (8986651) 9.45 *Storytime* (8983108) 10.00 *Children's BBC: Telebabies* (5542090) 10.45 *Cats' Eyes* (5647545) 11.00 *Look and Read* (1104854) 11.20 *Zig Zag* (6121835) 11.40 *Landmarks* (5336832) 12.05pm *History* (File 415632) 12.30 *Working Lunch* (89103)
1.00 *Children's BBC: Romuald the Reindeer* (7331474)
1.10 *The Great Picture Chase* Buying works of art (T) (8221003)
1.40 *The Arts and Crafts Show* Making a slate sofa (5604438) 2.25 *Sporting Greats* With Alan Bell (22550212)
2.40 *News: Weather* (T) (893477)
2.45 *Match of Their Day* With Geoff Hurst (T) (5219226)
2.55 *News: Weather* (T) (2393338)
3.30 *The Face on the Milk Carton* (TVM 1998) Moving drama about an adopted student who sets out to find her biological parents. With Kellie Martin. Directed by Wals Hussain (T) (20748)
5.00 *Tennis: Australian Open* The start of the second week (4011)
6.00 *The Simpsons* (T) (546670)
6.20 *The Simpsons* (T) (524459)
6.45 *Hot, Miss or Maybe* (T) (675816)
7.00 *Britannia Tom McKinnell* tells the story of the Royal Yacht (T) (67670)
7.30 *Against the Grain* Controversial farmer Oliver Walston concludes his hard-headed analysis of British agriculture with a look at the future of the industry (T) (449)
8.00 *Raising the Roof* Paul Kenyon discovers that rising damp may be little more than a myth (26) (T) (7930)
8.30 *True-Life Hospital* drama with the *Trauma Team* (8pm)

Antony Worrall Thompson creates more exciting recipes (T) (8394)

8.30 *Food and Drink* Rick Stein creates a seafood recipe and Antony Worrall Thompson warms up with venison chutney (T) (67129)
9.00 *Red Dwarf* (T) (8841)
10.00 *The Fast Show* Comedy sketch show (78) (T) (49361)
10.30 *Newsnight* With Jeremy Paxman (T) (29409)
11.45 *A Place of Safety* (352767)
11.55 *Weather* (534699)
12.00pm *Despatch Box* Political news (51313)
12.30 *BBC Learning Zone* Political news (51313)

For further listings see Saturday's *VISION*

SKY ONE

7.00pm *Court Circuits* (41659) 7.30 *The Simpsons* 8.30 *Highway Squares* (T) 8.45 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 9.00 *Party Girl* 9.15 *One More Thing* 9.30 *Party Girl* 9.45 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 10.00 *Party Girl* 10.15 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 10.30 *Party Girl* 10.45 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 10.50 *Party Girl* 11.00 *Party Girl* 11.15 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 11.30 *Party Girl* 11.45 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 11.50 *Party Girl* 12.00 *Party Girl* 12.15 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 12.30 *Party Girl* 12.45 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 12.50 *Party Girl* 13.00 *Party Girl* 13.15 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 13.30 *Party Girl* 13.45 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 13.50 *Party Girl* 14.00 *Party Girl* 14.15 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 14.30 *Party Girl* 14.45 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 14.50 *Party Girl* 15.00 *Party Girl* 15.15 *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* 15.30 *Party 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on lessons from
Argentina

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BUSINESS

CASHCOW 46

Art galleries
make money
out of Monet

MONDAY JANUARY 25 1999

Plans to overhaul electricity pool in jeopardy

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans to overhaul the electricity marketplace — a pivotal part of the Energy White Paper — are in trouble and unlikely to meet next year's deadline.

Without a reform of the controversial electricity "pool", the Gov-

ernment will be forced to maintain its *de facto* ban on new gas-fired power stations. This will incense generators who are already frustrated at the stranglehold on expansion plans.

Last October Peter Mandelson, then Trade and Industry Secretary, ordered the pool to be scrapped and new gas stations to be effectively

banned to make the energy market fairer for coal. His Energy White Paper followed a year of crisis for RJB Mining, the biggest producer, after the expiry of government contracts.

Tomorrow John Battle, Energy Minister, will be told by power companies and advisers on pool reform that the deadline of April next year

is impossible. He will also be told that legislation will be necessary because all the parties involved in the pool are unlikely to endorse reform.

The Government has no legislative slot for pool reform. It may hope to insert it into a Bill on utility regulation, although there is no time booked for that Bill.

On top of the impasse hit by the reform programme, there are growing fears about a legal minefield when power companies are forced to unravel long-term contracts linked to pool prices.

These widely used "contracts for differences" are tied to prevailing pool prices. When there is no such thing, lawyers have said that dis-

mantling the contracts will be highly problematic.

The Government will replace

the pool, in which generators bid

for prices and are paid partly ac-

cording to the power stations

they can run, with bilateral con-

tracts.

This could raise the risk of sup-

ply failures because the process

will not be centralised. The pool

was created, primarily, to ensure

that the lights stay on.

Tomorrow's meeting between

Mr Battle, the industry, pool advisers

and consumers' groups is the

first cross-interest one he has called

— more than three months after the

White Paper. Some key groups

have not met at all yet.

Blank wants Mirror to fire Montgomery

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

SIR VICTOR BLANK, chairman of Mirror Group, is to put a formal motion for the removal of his chief executive, David Montgomery, at a board meeting tomorrow. Sir Victor will claim that that Mr Montgomery, who has run the newspaper group for more than six years, has lost the confidence of the non-executive directors. However, it is not clear if all the non-executives, who include Sonia Land, Lord Borrie and Alan Clements share this view.

Indeed, Mr Clements, who

is deputy chairman of Mirror, is planning to raise questions about the way that Sir Victor has been conducting the negotiations with the two bidders circling Mirror, Regional Independent Media and Trinity.

Mr Clements raised a number of questions about Sir Victor's behaviour in a meeting with non-executive directors last week. One of the complaints is that Sir Victor did not inform a Mirror board meeting on January 11 that the previous day he had been telephoned by Sir Norman

Fowler, chairman of RIM requesting a meeting.

At a meeting on January 15 Sir Norman handed over a written offer proposal. A document produced by Mr Clements also questions whether Sir Victor met Mirror shareholders without advisers present — something that should not happen during an offer period.

Sir Victor will claim that shareholders speaking for at least 35 per cent, including the Mirror's largest shareholder Phillips & Drew, the fund manager, agree with his move. Some shareholders have said that they may call an extraordinary meeting to oust Mr Montgomery if he refuses to resign.

The acrimonious dispute at the heart of the Mirror board is coming to a head while a 200p a share cash offer worth £913 million is on the table from Regional Independent Media.

Events are being watched closely by Trinity, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, which offered an all-share deal worth about 160p a share. It then pulled out of talks.

RIM has made it clear that it is likely to submit a higher offer for Mirror but only after much fuller disclosure of information — something that has yet to happen. City analysts have put a 225p price tag on Mirror. Any removal of Mr Montgomery will be viewed as a negative by RIM, which fears being shut out of the deal.

The anti-sleaze campaigner targeted carpetbaggers by stating that windfall

payments should not be part of the conversion vote process.

Although notorious carpetbaggers such as Mr Hardern would be in the first line of fire, Mr Bell's proposals could also draw attention to MPs who might have a vested interest in the munificence debate.

However, Mr Bell has yet to reveal whether he holds any building society accounts. Building societies based near his Cheshire constituency include the Cheshire, the Manchester, the Marsden and the Vernon.



Michael Hardern, left, king of the carpetbaggers, has a new adversary in Martin Bell, MP and former war correspondent

Bell takes on carpetbaggers

By SUSAN EMMETT

MICHAEL HARDERN, the freelance butler leading the attempts to turn Britain's building societies into banks, has a new adversary. Martin Bell, the white-suited MP for Tatton, has embarked on a crusade to save mutuals from conversion and called on MPs to declare their building society accounts on the register of members' interests.

The anti-sleaze campaigner targeted carpetbaggers by stating that windfall

payments should not be part of the conversion vote process.

Although notorious carpetbaggers such as Mr Hardern would be in the first line of fire, Mr Bell's proposals could also draw attention to MPs who might have a vested interest in the munificence debate.

However, Mr Bell has yet to reveal whether he holds any building society accounts. Building societies based near his Cheshire constituency include the Cheshire, the Manchester, the Marsden and the Vernon.

Bob Goodall who co-ordinates the Save Our Building Societies campaign, said: "It's obvious that if an MP had something to hide he would not introduce the subject as public debate."

Mr Bell, the former BBC war correspondent, said that building society votes could only be truly democratic if the windfall element was removed.

Mr Bell said that he was "concerned" that votes for conversion are backed up with what can only be described as a bribe".

BP to exploit Mobil barrier

By CARL MORTISHED
INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS EDITOR

BP AMOCO looks set to take advantage of a European competition barrier to Exxon's plans to merge with Mobil by striking a deal to gain control of refining businesses worth about £3 billion.

BP has a joint venture with Mobil in Europe and the most likely result of the complex situation is that BP could buy all of Mobil's downstream assets so that the deal with Exxon can go through. The BP/Mobil joint venture has already brought savings of about £500 million in their joint operations.

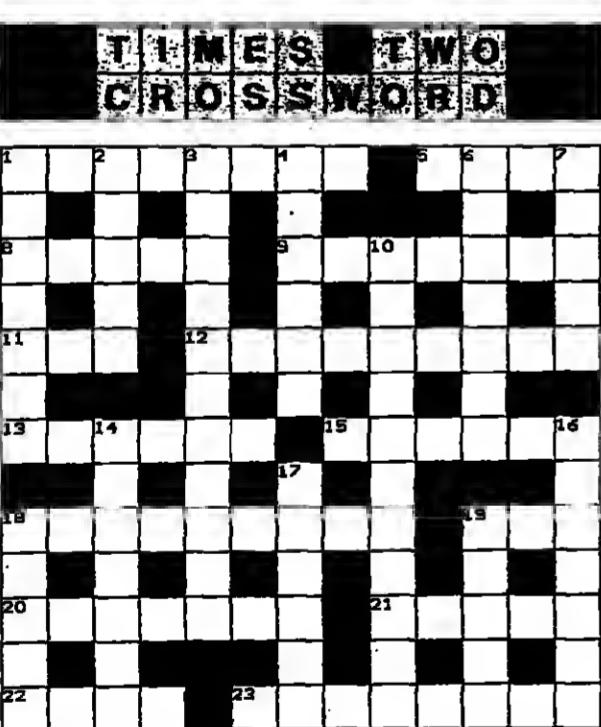
The US Federal Trade Commission has requested a maximum of further information from Exxon which has yet to file its agreement to take over Mobil with the European Commission. However, the European competition regulator said it had already been in contact with Exxon.

The market is worried that the Exxon/Mobil deal will trip up at the starting blocks. Mobil's share price is at £3 per cent discount to its implied value on the Exxon merger terms.

Rodney Chase, BP's deputy chief executive said that BP was confident about the outcome of negotiations with Exxon/Mobil. "They wish to conclude a merger. We are keen to help them to do so."

According to Wood Mackenzie, the consultants, the £3 billion BP/Mobil European oil products venture has a market share of 10.6 per cent. Adding Exxon's European downstream assets would create a petro- and lubricants behemoth with over 20 per cent of the European market.

Greece campaign, page 44



No 1623

ACROSS
1 Clothes cupboard (8)
5 Lyric poems (4)
8 Non-conformist (5)
9 Interrupt; mess up (7)
11 Child; little drink (5)
12 (Fr. kings') scarlet banner (9)
13 Well-behaved (6)
15 (Genetic) cross (6)
18 Quilled creature (9)
19 Coat of eg 7 down (3)
20 Mountaineer (7)
21 Eating implement (5)
22 Long, heroic tale (4)
23 (Sole) in butter, lemon, parsley (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 1622
ACROSS: 1 As bold as brass 8 Thistle 9 Chafe 10 Fog 11 Register 13 Costly 14 Tissue 17 Pincher 19 Dam 21 Mafia 22 Seducer 24 Stratospheric
DOWN: 1 Artefact 2 Bridges 3 Let 4 Avenge 5 Buck's fizz 6 Adage 7 Seek 11 Reluctant 12 Mesmeric 15 Sidecar 16 Gnosis 18 Infer 20 Amos 23 Doh

P&S may face auction sale

By RAYMOND SNODDY

PORTRUSH & Sunderland Newspapers yesterday said that it has received a number of bid approaches over the weekend after the launch of a £10 a share offer made on Friday by rival publisher, Johnston Press.

P&S denounced by Johnston as "opportunistic" and told their shareholders to ignore the tender offer which closes on Saturday.

The newspaper and convenience store group said that it had received at least two other approaches since Friday when Johnston Press bought a 14.99 per cent stake and launched a tender offer for a further 10 per cent. Johnston is also seeking regulatory approval to take a controlling interest in P&S at £191 million.

P&S declined to give further details yesterday on the other approaches since Friday when Johnston Press bought a 14.99 per cent stake and launched a tender offer for a further 10 per cent. Johnston is also seeking regulatory approval to take a controlling interest in P&S.

In a letter to be sent to shareholders today, Sir Stephen Waley-Cohen, the P&S chairman, argues that Johnston

Bumpy ride forecast for retailers

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

GLOOM in the high street is likely to persist for several more months but then retailers can expect fortunes to improve, according to a Verdict survey published today.

But in the long term high street will face a harder fight for customers against a proliferation of electronic sellers. The retail consultancy predicts tougher conditions and falling profit margins over the next five years. It forecasts a big growth in retailing capacity with the equivalent of 25 new big regional shopping centres being built. This, along with increased use of shopping by home computer, will mean that retailing is a buyer's market.

Verdict forecasts that this year there will be real growth of 2.1 per cent in retail sales — taking the total to £198 billion and on to £208 billion next year.

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Electra and 3i in talks

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

A HUGE shake-up in Britain's venture capital industry will be signalled today when 3i announces that it is in talks to buy Electra Investment Trust for about £1.25 billion.

The pair started talks ten days ago for 3i to buy Electra. The takeover would shake up the private equity market and propel 3i into a more central role with stakes in large businesses. In the past, it has not had a great deal of success in large transactions. It has been suggested that 3i could bid up to 725p a share for Electra — compared with a price of 563p on Friday. Electra's net asset value will today be set at

less than 72p when the company comments on the talks.

Shares in Electra, which is chaired by Michael Stoddart, the venture capital guru, have been trading at a discount of

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